

### *Free Public Lecture & Discussion*

In connection with the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) celebrating 25 years of work in its Scientific Committee, a public lecture is being offered:



## **Whales are Ecosystem Engineers – Fact or Fake?**

The management of whales and seals is a controversial issue internationally. The nations of the North Atlantic that hunt marine mammals (such as Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands) are committed to ensuring that the practice is both sustainable and responsible. In recent years, those opposing the hunting of whales and seals have claimed that whales operate as ecosystem engineers, playing a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem structure and function, and emphasized this as an important argument against hunting. This talk will explore the validity of the claim that whales act as ecosystem engineers.

*The talk will be given by **Paul Wassmann**, Professor of Marine Ecology at UiT - The Arctic University of Norway.*



**Location:** the FRAM Centre (auditorium Longyearbyen)

**Time:** Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 15:15-16:00

For more information, see [www.nammco.no](http://www.nammco.no) or [facebook.com/events/762589020759863/](https://facebook.com/events/762589020759863/).