

Opening statement by the Faroe Islands – 28th Annual Meeting of NAMMCO

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen

The Faroe Islands are a large ocean nation and the livelihood of our people is based on sustainable harvesting of the resources of the ocean.

The Faroe Islands believe that international cooperation on conservation of shared resources of the sea should be carried out through regional cooperation, and such a cooperation is more likely to be effective at a regional level, rather than on a global level.

Next year NAMMCO can celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the organisation. This testifies to the importance of our organization and the value of our cooperation.

The Faroe Islands would therefore like to thank all parties and others involved in the work of NAMMCO for their efforts and commitment to NAMMCO and tasks of our organisation.

Sustainable harvesting of marine mammals for food defines NAMMCO and unites the member countries. And sustainable whaling and sealing is fully in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 – to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

In 2017, NAMMCO produced the report “Marine Mammals – a Multifaceted Resource”. With a basis in that comprehensive and very useful report, and the UN SDGs, the Faroe Islands will be proposing to the Council this week that NAMMCO organise a Conference on marine mammals as a food resource to be held in the Autumn of 2022.

The conference should explore and discuss different themes related to marine mammals as food, and focus on marine mammals in gastronomy. We want to bring together chefs from whaling and sealing countries to showcase how marine mammals are used in different food cultures, and to discuss the potential for more creative and innovative use of sustainable marine mammal produce in modern gastronomy.