



Opening statement by Greenland to NAMMCO 28th Annual Meeting 2021, Virtual

Mrs Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered together virtually to address issues on the conservation and management of marine mammals. This new normal, gives us both possibility to have more meetings. However, it also gives limitation, preventing us in having useful informal discussions. Through joint effort, we all have overcome to prepare the annual meeting in spite of the pandemic situation.

Follow up on recommendations from the Performance Review

Greenland welcomes the processes on follow up on the recommendations from the performance review. However, the Commission should be aware of the workload and administrative burdens it entail for the member countries. It is therefore important that the Commission is keeping track on focus and priority issues in order not to create too big bureaucracy in NAMMCO.

The need for increased focus on hunter and user knowledge

For the last 5-6 years, there has been clear evidence that there is a need to improve and structure the collection and use of hunter- and user knowledge in relation to addressing issues on the conservation and management of marine mammals. There is an imbalanced situation, which increases challenges between scientists and hunters. The situation has a severe impact on the management on marine mammal in Greenland. It also a cause for frustrations in the hunter communities, in meat supply and to their cultural heritage.

The best available scientific knowledge

The scientific knowledge of the marine mammal stocks has been steadily improving, and thus improving the management advices in Greenland.

The view from Greenland is that the best available knowledge is obtained by combining the two knowledge systems of hunter and users knowledge with the scientific data in the decision making process. Then it will be up to the politicians to make the final decision using the two types of knowledge.

The above-described situation can be solved, focussing the work on structured collection and use of hunter and user knowledge in a greater level. A knowledge of the marine mammal based on 24 hours and year round observations of wildlife from hunters is valuable and need to be taken into account in the decision making process.

Therefore, Greenland would like to work for an increased focus on organized collection and use of hunter knowledge in the decision making process in the coming years, also within NAMMCO context.

We hope for a positive and constructive meeting despite the virtual meeting.

Qujanaq – Thank you.