



Makivik Corporation: Opening Statement, NAMMCO 28th Meeting of the Council (Virtual)

March 22, 2021

Madam Chair, NAMMCO members, and other observers;

Makivik Corporation, on behalf of the Inuit of Nunavik (Northern Québec, Canada) is once again pleased to be an observer to the 28th meeting of the NAMCCO Council. We would like to thank the NAMMCO Secretariat for facilitating this meeting during these difficult times. I would also like to send the regrets of Adamie Delisle Alaku, the Executive Vice President of Makivik Corporation, who would have liked to have participated but unfortunately has other engagements.

Makivik views the proceedings of NAMMCO as an important forum for discussions on issues that pertain to the sustainable use of marine mammals that are essential to Nunavik Inuit food security, culture, and livelihood, within the context of modern comprehensive Canadian Land Claims Agreements. This includes the use of both science and Inuit Knowledge in marine mammal management and decision-making. Moreover, because of the heavy dependence of Nunavik Inuit on these marine resources for food and clothing, Makivik established and now owns, operates, and funds the Nunavik Research Centre so as to ensure that marine mammals are safe for consumption and researched with both Inuit Knowledge and science.

We are also encouraged by the presence of fellow Canadian Inuit organization, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the continued participation of the Canadian Federal Government as an observer to NAMMCO. Makivik Corporation, from policy, management, Inuit Knowledge, and scientific perspectives, hopes that it can contribute in meaningful ways to these proceedings.

Nakurmiik, thank you, merci

Gregor Gilbert

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