



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

March 19, 2021

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates, and fellow observers:

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, on behalf of the Inuit of Nunavut is pleased to participate as an observer in this 28th meeting of the NAMMCO Council. NTI is responsible for the implementation of the Nunavut Agreement in Canada which includes principles of conservation, co-management of wildlife, and recognition of Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit and Inuit system of wildlife management.

As you know, Inuit rely on wildlife for subsistence, cultural, and spiritual value. The access and availability of local resources has been no more evident than the challenges presented by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, NTI has continued to implement an Inuit Marine Monitoring Network in Nunavut to monitor vessel traffic as well to develop capacity to test for *Trichinella* in Atlantic Walrus.

NTI greatly values the work of NAMMCO and thanks the NAMMCO Secretariat for their regular communication and facilitation of this meeting. Sustainable management of marine mammals is not only important to Inuit, but also for all members and observers. NTI would also like to acknowledge the participation of Makivik Corporation who represent the Inuit of Northern Québec and the Government of Canada as observers to this meeting.

NTI appreciates the invitation and is willing to participate in all relevant discussions to promote the work of NAMMCO. Inuit inherently support the sustainable use of wildlife to ensure that Inuit can pass on the traditions, knowledge and values of elders and hunters to future generations.

Qujannamiik,

Paul Irngaut

Director,
Department of Wildlife and Environment,
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.