

**United States Opening Statement**  
**NAMMCO Council Meeting**

13 September 2022

The United States would like to thank the NAMMCO members for the invitation to observe your 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. This is the first time the United States is observing a Council meeting in person and we hope to gain a better understanding of your organization and approach to issues of mutual concern.

Our interests here are to listen and learn how NAMMCO is structured and operates and learn more about the work that you do. In particular, we are interested in your work on bycatch, entanglements and strandings, the ecosystem approach to management, and your work on hunting methods. We would also like to learn more about the organizational structure of NAMMCO, its decision-making process, its use of scientific information, how it addresses conservation issues, how it incorporates indigenous communities' views and knowledge into decisions, and how it addresses management issues. We look forward to observing discussions over the next few days and appreciate the opportunity to be here with you all this week.