

Good morning Chair, Distinguished delegates, fellow observers.

Canada is pleased to participate as an Observer at this 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NAMMCO Council, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Commission on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. While I am unable to be there with you in-person, I would also like to thank Norway for hosting this meeting and the Secretariat for all its organizational efforts in this regard.

Canada values NAMMCO's role as a provider of strong science advice on marine mammals and its dedication to the sustainable management of these species.

We also recognize the importance of collaborating with our international partners on science and the management of marine mammals, and of maintaining our close relationship with NAMMCO participants to ensure a coordinated approach to research and conservation.

Canada is committed to the sustainable management of marine mammals, and to protecting Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices, with subsistence marine mammal harvest being especially important to Indigenous peoples for its food, social, and ceremonial significance.

We look forward to positive discussions over the course of this meeting, and I want to reiterate our appreciation for the opportunity to join you.  
Thank you.