

## **Opening statement by the Faroe Islands – 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAMMCO**

Minor Chair, distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen.

First, on behalf of the Faroese delegation, I would like the opportunity to thank Norway for hosting this annual meeting, and the secretariat for organizing the meeting.

It is a great pleasure for us to be here today, and to be able to meet with you, since the Corona epidemic for more than two years has prevented us gathering for an annual meeting.

This year NAMMCO marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the organisation. This testifies to the importance of our organisation and the value of our cooperation.

The Faroe Islands would therefore like to thank all parties and others involved in the work of NAMMCO for their efforts and commitment to NAMMCO and tasks of our organisation.

The Faroe Islands believe that international cooperation on conservation of shared resources of the sea should be carried out through regional cooperation. Such a cooperation is more likely to be effective at a regional level, rather than on a global level, of which NAMMCO is a clear example.

As part of NAMMCO's 30 year anniversary, the Faroe Islands will host the NAMMCO conference and gastronomic showcase "Marine Mammals: A Sustainable Food Resource", in Tórshavn 5-6 October.

The conference will highlight the use and importance of marine mammals as a food resource. Bringing together people from a range of backgrounds, including business and academics, chefs and policy makers, scientists and media, the conference will focus on the role of marine mammals as part of sustainable and resilient food systems and food cultures in the North Atlantic and around the world – today and in the future.

The conference will feature a special food event where chefs from Faroe Islands, Norway, Iceland, Canada, Japan and Greenland will serving a variety of whale and seal dishes and showcasing the potential for more innovative use of marine mammals in modern gastronomy.

Hope to see you in the Faroe Islands in October.

Thank you.