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30th Annual Meeting in NAMMCO  
Tromsø, March 29-30, 2023

## **Opening Statement from KNAPK for NAMMCO 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Tromsø, March 29-30, 2023.**

KNAPK will initially express its pleasure to participate as an NGO observer in NAMMCO's 30th annual meeting.

KNAPK has existed for almost 70 years, with the organization celebrating its anniversary on 12 June 2023.

Throughout its existence, KNAPK has fought for the improvement of the conditions and framework conditions of Greenlandic fishermen and hunters. The organization has achieved many good results over the years. The most significant result is that the organization is represented in almost all residences in Greenland.

There is no other organization that is as broad and encompassing as KNAPK.

Our work areas and purpose clauses have made KNAPK a strong and energetic organization that wins attention and respect. Not because of size, but because of stability and representation.

During KNAPK's general assembly in October 2021, it was decided that the organization must, among other things, work on improving the purchase prices for fish, obtain larger quotas (game animals and fish) and improve the living conditions for the fishermen and the hunters.

The year 2022 was used to cement KNAPK's representation in international organizations, with the organization gaining NGO observer status at NAFO, IWC and NAMMCO. The next step will be to strengthen the organization's cooperation with research organizations, so that advice on fish and game animals can be improved.

KNAPK believes that the way to greater influence is through greater cooperation with biologists and researchers, who advise the Greenlandic politicians on quotas and the protection of nature, animals and fish.

### *Climate change*

Climate change has had major negative effects on the Arctic, and on Greenland in particular. This has affected hunting and fishing, which, as you know, is Greenland's most important industry. Of course, not all consequences are equally negative. The warmer sea temperatures

have meant that the fish population generally grows a little faster. Fish species are coming to our waters in greater style, where we have observed more species than usual.

Of the negative consequences, it must be noted that unstable weather and a longer change of season, and later ice cover have had devastating consequences for the hunting industry. Earning opportunities are reduced.

KNAPK has submitted to the country's politicians in vain about the many negative consequences, but remains silent and passive despite large protests. There has thus been no help for the hunters in the outer districts, which KNAPK has applied for in November 2022. No responses to inquiries have been received.

#### *Major restrictions*

As you know, Greenland is the World's largest island. Despite this, Greenland, with its 56,661 inhabitants, is relatively small compared to other nations. Quotas are allocated which do not at all reflect Greenland's size at sea, on land and in the air.

Greenland must be recognized for a much larger share of game animals and fish, which reflects the country's size and food base. The biomass can easily withstand a much larger quota, and therefore KNAPK is working on recognition of Greenland's much larger quotas, in all contexts.

#### *User knowledge*

Among the ways to achieve greater validity in advice, investigation and assessment of the resource base, KNAPK will participate actively in describing how the fishermen and the hunters can be involved much more, so that there will be greater credibility and security for biological advice.

It must be remembered that KNAPK's members spend much more time on nature and the environment. Therefore, the fishermen and hunters deserve greater respect, recognition and involvement in advice.

#### *Sustainability goals*

Greenland is a pioneering country when it comes to sustainability. Long before the concept of sustainable was internationally recognized, the Hunters' Council in Thule thus had legal provisions on the protection of nature and wildlife, where the council drew up conditions for how, when and what should be caught by whom.

Conservation areas were drawn up, the purpose of which is to protect the animals' breeding areas, feeding chambers and breeding areas. These provisions have been known as the Thule Laws of 1917.

KNAPK lives by the same principles as our ancestors have done for generations, namely that no more should be caught than absolutely necessary, and only as needed.

These guiding principles of sustainability are deeply ingrained in our nature.

Protection of wildlife and ecosystem is not enough. There must also be balance in things. If there are too many animals, some species will suffer from this. Therefore, it is important to create balance and harmony between exploitation and protection.

### *Goals in the short and medium term*

KNAPK works according to five pillars: new fishery act, better procurement prices, higher quotas, climate change and countering the negative consequences of inflation.

At the same time, the SDG goals are important to KNAPK. There is a connection between resource utilization, earnings and securing optimal framework conditions. Harmonization of prices is also important. Better procurement options are important.

### *The importance of culture, identity and traditions*

Greenland has existed as a proud hunting society in the Arctic throughout the ages because the Inuit have adapted to nature, the environment and the wildlife. Without ingenuity, mentality and endurance, the Inuit cannot survive in the Arctic.

KNAPK considers our history and ancestry to be an important reason why Greenlanders live and live in Greenland, as active citizens in the Arctic. Involvement of citizens is important if trust and respect are to be created around resource utilization.

After all, it is the people of the Arctic who have lived and survived through the ages. And therefore it is the original population that has the first right to the resources and their exploitation. Also when it comes to finances.

Henning Dalager  
Chairman of the Advisory Board