

Master CHAIR, DISTINGUISHED Delegates, Observers - Ladies and Gentlemen

First, on behalf of the Faroese delegation, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Secretary of NAMMCO for all their preparation in hosting and organising the meeting. It is a pleasure to be here in the beautiful Tromsø for the 30th annual meeting of our organisation.

In October last year, as part of the 30 years anniversary of NAMMCO, the Faroe Islands hosted the conference and gastronomic showcase "Marine Mammals: A Sustainable Food Resource".

On behalf of the Government of the Faroe Islands I would like to extend my thanks to all the participant, to my colleagues and the Secretariat for their participation and efforts in organizing the event.

After 30 years the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission is a well-established organisation and constructive in its work. This testifies to the importance of our organisation and the value of our cooperation.

In 2024, the next NASS survey will be carried out and these recurring whale counting surveys, which span more than 30 years, are the flagship of the scientific cooperation in NAMMCO.

The MINTag project is progressing and this project demonstrates that NAMMCO is in the forefront in the field of studies of marine mammals.

The Faroe Islands is a whaling nation and whaling is deeply rooted in our community. The voyage of NAMMCO as so far lasted 30 years and the Faroe Islands is highly committed in the continuation of this voyage, carrying on our commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 – to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Thank you.