



Opening statement by Greenland to NAMMCO 31st Annual Meeting 2024, Reykjavik, Iceland

Mr Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, on behalf of the Greenlandic delegation, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the NAMMCO Secretariat for all their preparation in organising the meeting, and Iceland for hosting the 31st annual meeting of our organisation. It is a pleasure to be here in beautiful Reykjavik.

NAMMCO has succeeded in its work on animal welfare issues through the Committee on Hunting Methods. The former and members of today have worked very professional and dedicated. Justines Olsen from Faroe Islands, Egil Ole Øen from Norway, Kristian Loftsson from Iceland and many other whalers have inspired us. Without their professionalism and dedication, we have not accomplished the credible work of NAMMCO of today.

NAMMCO members have worked to safeguard both with animal welfare and be aware of the legal aspects, associated to the hunting of marine mammals and how best to deal with those. We have learned from each other and give space for more. I revisited the first NAMMCO meeting report from 1992, which said that it will include consideration of measure necessary to ensure the safety of those directly involved in hunting, safety of the whalers. The mandate is two-sided and important because we are the Arctic and North Atlantic.

There have been concrete and important works such as Hunting manuals, video-based instructions regarding the use of harpoon cannons and whale grenades, new knives, and hooks.

Most of the work has leaned on science and research. It is very important work, which has been done in good cooperation with hunters and other experts. The work in NAMMCO has a very significant value for Greenland.

Continued sharing of experiences and knowledge on hunting methods are very important within NAMMCO and observers, as we clearly have seen generation shift within whalers, their organisations, and in the various government bodies. I hope NAMMCO Council will continue to be aware of the situation, so we safeguard the knowledge and expertise gained in NAMMCO.

We hope for a positive and constructive meeting.

Qujanaq – Thank you.