

# **United States Opening Statement**

## **NAMMCO Council Meeting**

March 2024

The United States thanks the NAMMCO members for the invitation to observe your 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting. We are also grateful to Iceland for arranging and hosting this meeting. We are pleased to be here in Reykjavik to observe the Council and committee meetings and engage with NAMMCO Members and other observers on the conservation and management of marine mammals.

We appreciate how NAMMCO provides a forum for cooperation in the study of marine mammals and the development of conservation and management measures. We particularly acknowledge NAMMCO's consideration of indigenous knowledge in, and ecosystem-based approach of, your work. The marine mammals in the North Atlantic, and elsewhere, face a range of anthropogenic stressors, such as entanglement in fishing gear, ship strikes, pollution, underwater shipping noise, and climate change. The United States has a number of activities underway to address these stressors, many of which benefit from cooperation with other countries. The United States also shares an interest in work on hunting methods, hunter safety, increasing efficiencies of hunts, and other aspects that relate to the aboriginal subsistence whaling in the United States. We will be listening with interest on the range of topics over the next few days and look forward to engaging with participants here on the issues of mutual concern.