

North-Atlantic Marine Mammal Council
32nd Annual meeting
25 March 2025
Statement on behalf of Iceland

Distinguished Chair, Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Icelandic delegation, to greet you all here today and thank Norway for welcoming us to the beautiful city of Tromsø. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the work in preparing this meeting and we are looking forward to working together this week.

Dear all, the foundation for our joint mission here at NAMMCO is the science. Iceland is fully committed to this foundation and will continue to put emphasis on our scientific work in its engagement within NAMMCO. The valuable knowledge derived from the work of NAMMCO has served to support how we address the wide range of issues related to our cooperation on conservation, management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic.

To carry out this work we continue to rely on the individuals involved, as well as their respective organizations to lay the groundwork for which the decisions of NAMMCO are based on. This also includes cooperation with external parties. Iceland would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved.

We have important work ahead of us at this annual meeting and were off to a good start yesterday with our workshop on Animal Welfare in the Context of Marine Mammal Hunting. We are also looking forward to reviewing the work

of our scientific colleagues as well as continued discussion on our work to ensure appropriate inspection and observation of hunts in our areas.

We look forward to a constructive debate with our NAMMCO partners and our joint work to consider management procedures which take into account the relationship between marine mammals and other marine living resources. We should never forget our basis in the general principle of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources as reflected in international law and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Madam Chair thank you for this opportunity to address the annual meeting on behalf of Iceland.