

Opening Statement from AMAP to NAMMCO by Mario Acquarone, Deputy Secretary

Madam Chair, Distinguished representatives of NAMMCO member countries and observers, I am honored to address this assembly on behalf of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme. AMAP is one of six working groups that operate under the direction of the Arctic Council, providing reliable and sufficient information on the status of, and threats to, the Arctic environment. Our mandate focuses on delivering sound science-based information for use in policy- and decision-making, with assessment activities that are internationally coordinated, subject to rigorous peer-review, and utilize the most up-to-date results from both monitoring and research.

AMAP's geographical coverage extends from the High Arctic to the sub-Arctic areas of Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States, as well as their associated marine areas. This comprehensive coverage includes significant portions of the North Atlantic that overlap with NAMMCO's areas of interest and jurisdiction.

Our organization is committed to supporting Arctic governments and Indigenous Peoples in their efforts to implement remedial and preventive actions relating to contaminants and the adverse effects of climate change. This mission complements NAMMCO's goals of conservation, management, and sustainable use of marine mammals in the North Atlantic.

In conclusion, AMAP stands ready to support NAMMCO's mission through our scientific monitoring and assessment work. The environmental changes occurring in the Arctic present both challenges and opportunities for marine mammal conservation and the communities that depend on these resources. By combining AMAP's environmental monitoring expertise with NAMMCO's focus on marine mammal management, we can develop more robust, integrated approaches to ensuring both healthy marine mammal populations and thriving human communities in the North Atlantic region.

We look forward to exploring ways to strengthen our cooperation and to ensure that the best available science informs decisions affecting marine mammals and the people of the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission.