



Opening statement by the Minister Peter Borg to the 2026 NAMMCO Annual Meeting, Nuuk, Greenland

Mr Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

34 years cooperation on conservation, management and studies of marine mammals

It is with great pleasure that I as Minister of Hunting welcome you to Nuuk at this Annual meeting. The NAMMCO agreement was signed here in Nuuk on the 9th of April in 1992 by the 4 member parties Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and Greenland, and collaborative in its work, which can be seen in the interesting website and the meeting agenda.

NAMMCO is today a well consolidated collaborative organization for the conservation, management and scientific-based work on marine mammals in the North Atlantic, of which we are proud of. Greenland as always would like to invite to a tighter and more direct cooperation on shared stocks in the North Atlantic and wish to welcome our other neighboring countries, here under Canada/Nunavut and other areas to join the NAMMCO Agreement.

Scientific work

The cornerstone of NAMMCO is scientific work, which is basis for management advice to the member countries. It is gratifying that the member countries of NAMMCO through regional cooperation aim to strengthen and improve biological advice and further develop effective conservation and management measures for marine mammals based on the latest NAMMCO North Atlantic Sighting Survey (NASS) and the Miniature Tag (MINTAG) project.

For certain subpopulations and specific time series biological surveys are not being conducted nor can they be conducted here in Greenland due to the large distances and limited resources. And since targeted animals change their behaviour from year to year, depending on changes in the natural environment, there can sometimes be uncertainty regarding the advice provided. This places high demands on the scientific work carried out by NAMMCO and Science Institutions.

However, scientific advice is available for almost all managed species in Greenland, and the decline of local stocks of belugas in West Greenland and walruses in general have reversed. It has not always been popular among the users with quota introduction and catch limitations, but the regular surveys of the stocks of these species shows that it is going the right way. The result of the advice and management of these species have been successful.

Greenland is delighted that NAMMCO acts as the co-coordinating part for an increasing number of major international projects about marine mammal like the development of educational materials on marine mammals via the GUARDNA-project. This will benefit the education of our children and young people.

However, we continue to face significant challenges with narwhals in both East Greenland and North Greenland. The Naalakkersuisut sets limited quotas to ensure a sufficient meat supply in these areas. A clear food safety policy is crucial given the challenging geopolitical conditions Greenland faces right now. We must be able to provide for ourselves, but we must also ensure that this does not harm stocks. Greenland exists mostly by the sea and from the sea. Marine resources have great cultural and socio-economic significance to each family in the coastal communities.

Continued work on hunting methods

Greenland also sees fruitful and constructive results in the work of the Committee on Hunting Methods, with the work with manuals and videos on the use of whale grenades and sighting points and wish to emphasise our continued commitment to these important topics.

I wish you a constructive meeting and I hope you have time to experience Nuuk town.

Thank you for your attention.

Peter Borg