Makivvik: Opening Statement, NAMMCO 33rd Meeting of the Council, Nuuk, Greenland, March 24, 2025

Mr. Chair, NAMMCO members, and other observers

On behalf of the Inuit of Nunavik, Makivvik would like to thank Greenland and the NAMMCO Secretariat for welcoming us here and Nuuk, the land of Greenlandic Inuit, for the 33rd meeting. We are grateful to be given the opportunity to participate as observers and share our vision on this first day of the meeting.

In a world that seems to be increasingly divided with each passing day, Makivvik truly values institutions such as the NAMMCO forum that provides opportunities to engage in meaningful exchanges and collaborations. For Nunavik Inuit, belonging to a community is not only a core value, but also a fundamental part of our identity and what has allowed us to survive and thrive in our homeland, the Arctic. NAMMCO brings a sense a community to its members and observers to address common issues concerning the sustainable use of marine mammals, which are central to Nunavimmiut food security, culture and wellbeing, in an open and respectful way.

For the last four decades, Makivvik has been dedicated to collect existing Inuit knowledge and produce new research to steward, with the best of our ability, our land and resources. Our way of managing wildlife, which isn't built on numbers and models, is different than what scientists and governments are doing, but not incompatible if we invest the time and efforts to understand each other. I have no doubts that the transfer of Inuit knowledge, build on hundreds of years of observation and cohabitation with marine mammals, can support and serve western science, and vice versa.

We have a lot to learn from each other and collaboration is the only way towards sound management that respect both sustainability outcomes and Inuit harvesting rights.

Nakurmiik, thank you, merci.

Adamie Delisle-Alaku
Executive Vice-President, Environment, Wildlife, and Research,
Makivvik