



**Joint Statement issued at the 19th Annual Meeting of NAMMCO
Torshavn, the Faroe Islands, 2 September 2010**

EU import ban on seal products is a huge step backwards for sustainable development.

Noting that the ban on the import of seal products into the European Union adopted by the EU Council on 27 July 2009 went into effect on 20 August this year, the NAMMCO Council maintains, reiterates and reconfirms its position as expressed by the Statement issued at the 18th Annual Meeting of NAMMCO (Appendix 5 to its Annual Report 2009), that the ban ignores and undermines the internationally recognized principles on which conservation and management of marine resources in the North Atlantic are firmly based. If upheld, this ban will have serious and detrimental consequences for the economies of the many communities dependent on abundant seal stocks across the North Atlantic.

For the member countries of NAMMCO, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway, as well as observer nations Canada, the Russian Federation and Japan, this ban raises serious concerns for the future of international cooperation on responsible management and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources in general.

The incorporation of the ban into European Union legislation is a huge step backwards for sustainable development and international trade.

The nations cooperating through NAMMCO are all committed to promoting the principle of sustainable development in all areas of cooperation in the region, including the sustainable use of seals and international trade in seal products.