

Beluga Whale (White Whale)

Beluga Whale Facts

Weight: about 3,000 pounds

Length: up to 16 feet.

Belugas are known as the "canaries of the sea" because of the range of sounds they make.

Belugas have flexible necks, allowing them to move their heads separate from their bodies.

Taxonomy

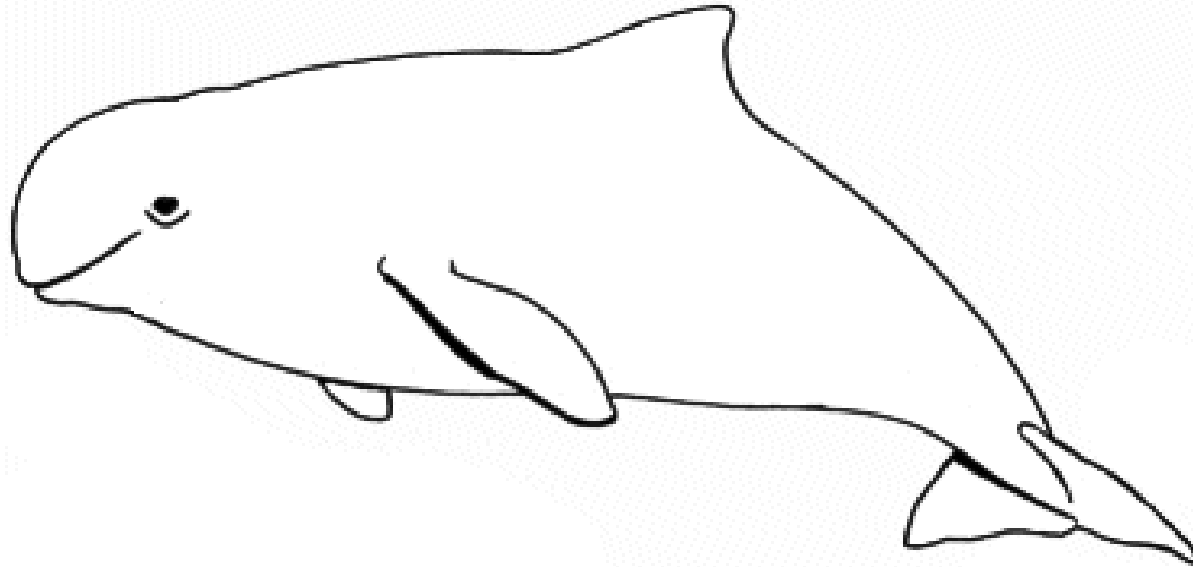
Class: Mammalia

Order: Cetacea

Family: Monodontidae

Genus: *Delphinapterus*

Species: *leucas*



Beluga whales are extremely social animals that live, hunt, and migrate together in pods of a few, to hundreds of whales. Beluga whales primarily inhabit Arctic and subarctic waters.

Belugas are born dark gray. They turn white as they get older. Belugas are covered with a thick layer of blubber, have large melons (heads) and very short snouts. Beluga whales are believed to live for thirty-five to fifty years.

Beluga whales have well-developed senses. They can hear a wide range of sounds and have excellent vision in and out of the water. Belugas may have some sense of taste, but they do not a sense of smell.

Belugas have a varied diet with more than 100 prey species including salmon, herring, shrimp, Arctic cod, and flounder. They feed in both open water or on the bottom and in shallow and deepwater habitats.