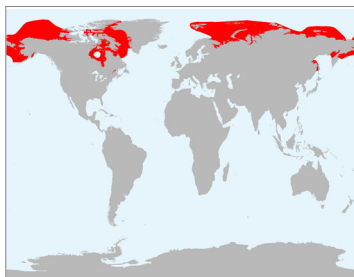


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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Beluga

The **Beluga**, *Delphinapterus leucas*, is listed as Near Threatened on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is distributed in the high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere from the west coast of Greenland westwards to Svalbard, Norway. Some Belugas undertake large-scale annual migrations between summering and wintering sites.

The Beluga is one of the most distinctive of all marine mammals. The stocky body ends in a particularly small head, there is no dorsal fin, and adults develop their striking white colouring as they mature. Historically, commercial hunting was the biggest threat to this species across certain portions of their range, although today most captures are for subsistence use and the aquarium trade. However, they are also impacted to a lesser degree by vessel traffic, habitat modification, contaminants from industrial and urban pollution, and incidental by-catch in fisheries.

This species receives some protection through its listing on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and on Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS or Bonn Convention). A regional management body in Canada and Greenland sets catch limits for Beluga populations within member countries.

Knowledge^{EQ}
Experts^{EQ}
Get Involved^{EQ}



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