



The Beluga Edition



Baby beluga in the deep blue sea
Swim so wild and you swim so free

- Raffi



a Message from the Mermaid and the FrostbitFins Pod

Whale Watching!

March 1st was the beginning of the Cook Inlet Beluga Watch! The Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Photo-ID Project has been ongoing since 2005. Over time, sighting histories are compiled for each known individual and researchers are able to learn more about the distribution, habitat use, social structure and reproduction of the Cook Inlet beluga whales.

And YOU CAN HELP!

If you see Belugas in the Kenai River - they come in with the tide and sneak out with the same - report it to the site here: <https://www.cookinletbelugas.com/cibw-sightings>

That link also gives a lot of info about the Beluga Pod (over 100 belugas in our pod!) and where and when are the most likely times to see them. Want to know who you're looking for in the Kenai River? Their names are: Kenai, Strapped, Treasure, Togiak, Ridscuff, Scissors, Jabba, Humperdinck, Band-Aid, Dimples, Frog, Ropey, Sashtoo, Apple Pie, Mosquito, BigCleft, TailRing, Saddle, BigSpot, ProppedOne, RacinStripes, BleachEyes, Valkrie, and Insect.

Saddle is a loner, and is seen the most often in the Kenai River - as late as November! So keep your eyes peeled, and let us know if you see any of our Beluga Friends!



Saddle



As for our FbF pod - we're getting ready for our first Vendor Show of the season, which will be the What Women Want in April - stay tuned for more on that, The Seward Mermaid Festival, and a brand new place to find our Marvelous Mermaid Merch - coming soon!

Until next time....

Your Seafriend, AnneMeridia
and the Frostbit Fins Pod

A Whale On Her Own: The True Story of Wilma the Beluga Whale by Brian Skerry

LET'S READ!

Can you imagine what it would be like to swim with a whale? Gliding beneath the blue ocean waves. Bobbing gently as a huge, graceful animal pulls you along. It would be truly magical to explore the sea this way! For such a thing to happen, a whale would have to want to be with you. But whales are wild animals. They rarely come face to face with humans. Once in a while, however, the lives of humans and wild animals come together...

Want to learn more about Belugas? ~ Visit your local library today!

MARCH FIN FACTS WITH



BELUGAS!



- Belugas migration generally takes place in the spring and fall. They migrate south as ice begins forming in the arctic and they migrate back to their northern feeding grounds. Beluga watch in Alaska begins March first. If you spot belugas coming in or out of the river with the tide, it can be reported at www.cookinletbelugas.com.
- Belugas are the smallest species of whale and can grow up to 18 feet long and weigh up to 3500 pounds.
- Belugas are slow swimmers. Most species of whales swim up to 28 mph, but belugas swim at a pace of 2-6 mph normally. They can swim up to 14 mph at their fastest.
- Even though they are slower, belugas are extremely good swimmers. They can swim forward and backward and in water depths that barely cover their bodies.
- Researchers collect snot from belugas. Whale snot carries a lot of biological data that helps researchers learn about things like stress, genetics, and the effects of climate change.
- The rounded "forehead" of the beluga, called a melon, sits in front of the blowhole. This melon is a unique feature that makes the beluga easily recognizable.
- Belugas have very loud voices that can even be heard through ship hulls. They were given the nickname "sea canaries" due to the frequency and variety of their vocalizations. Marine biologists have recorded at least 11 different vocalizations including whistles, squeals, clucks, mews, and chirps. The melon changes shape to help them make these different sounds.
- Unlike other whales, belugas neck vertebrae are not fused. This means they have more flexibility and mobility, giving them the ability to nod and turn their heads side to side.
- Belugas change color as they age. They are born gray or brown and change to white as they become adults.



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FACEBOOK & Instagram

Did you make the Guppy Goodies? Are you all finished with the coloring page(s)? Have mom and dad put them on social media and tag us @frostbitfins on Facebook and Instagram for a chance to be featured on our page and in next month's FeatherFinFlyer!



BELUGA DOT-TO-DOT

Connect the dots to reveal the Beluga!



LAST MONTH'S
Answers!



- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1* AFRICA | 8* HERBIVORE |
| 2* SUB- SAHARAN | 9* PYGMY HIPPO |
| 3* HIPPOPOTAMUS | 10* IVORY |
| 4* COMMON RIVER HIPPO | 11* RIVER HORSE |
| 5* SEMIAQUATIC | 12* TUSKS |
| 6* MAMMALS | 13* MANGROVES |
| 7* BLOAT | 14* WHEEZE HONK |



MARCH Special Dates!



Birthday Club!

Wishing a FIN-tastic Birthday to:

- 3/1 Bella B
- 3/6 Kenzlee J
- 3/10 Rainier B
- 3/10 Lacey W
- 3/11 Nina C
- 3/18 Grace H
- 3/19 Eliza P
- 3/22 Ashlee A
- 3/24 Dakota R
- 3/24 Debra E
- 3/25 Blakelynn H



Happy
Birthday!

Dates of Interest

- 3/3 World Wildlife Day
- 3/4 Iditarod Race Starts
- 3/6 Oreo Cookie Day
- 3/10 National Hug Your Dog Day
- 3/12 National Plant a Flower Day
- 3/19 National Let's Laugh Day
- 3/22 World Water Day
- 3/25 International Waffle Day
- 3/31 National Crayon Day

MARCH Beluga Watch!

THE COOK INLET BELUGA WHALE PHOTO-ID PROJECT

Beluga Watch starts on March 1st! If you see beluga's chasing the tide in and out of the Kenai River, report and send your photos here:

<https://www.cookinletbelugas.com/>

The project conducts research and education that contribute to the recovery and conservation of beluga whales in Cook Inlet and to provide information to help manage human activities that might affect the belugas.

Join the Frostbit Fins Birthday Club
on our website at FrostbitFins.com



Guppy Goodies

Fin Funnies!



Frozen Beluga Banana Bites

Ingredients:

- 3 medium bananas
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 2 teaspoons shortening
- Optional toppings like chopped peanuts, shredded coconut, colored jimmies

Directions:

- Cut each banana crosswise into 6 pieces about 1 inch thick.
- Insert a toothpick into each piece and transfer to a wax paper lined baking sheet.
- Freeze until completely firm, about 1 hour.
- In a microwave, melt chocolate and shortening.
- Stir until smooth.
- Dip banana pieces in the chocolate mixture and allow the excess to drip off.
- Immediately dip the pieces into toppings as desired and return to the baking sheet.
- Freeze at least 30 minutes before serving.

What did the whale say to scare everyone?

Ooga- beluga!

Why did the beluga go to the doctor?

It didn't feel too whale!

Why did the beluga call a detective?

He thought he saw something fishy!

Fintastic Deals!

Frostbit Fins Merch

Marvelous Mermaid Munchies, Bathbombs, Soaps and more - all at our online store -with free local pickup!

<https://frostbit-fins.square.site/>



**VISIT MERMAIDSTRAW.COM AND USE THE CODE FROSTBITFINS FOR 15% OFF YOUR PURCHASE!
HELP RID THE OCEANS OF PLASTIC, ONE SIP AT A TIME!**