

get up close and personal with

# Beluga Whales!

*Delphinapterus leucas*

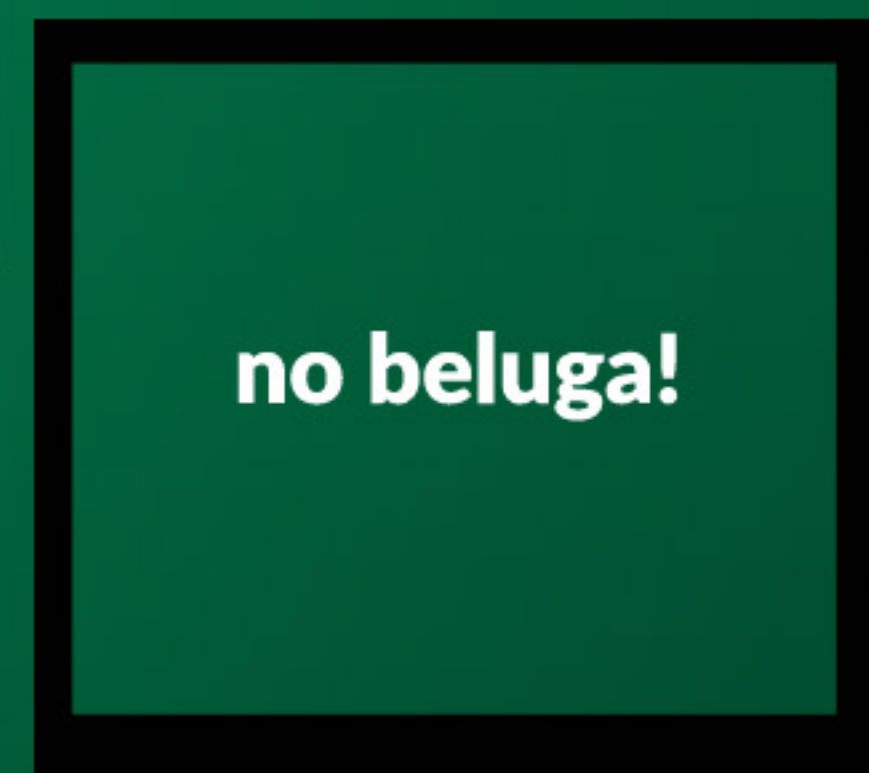


Belugas are white whales that live in cold, arctic waters. They are social animals, and have a wide vocal repertoire of clicks, whistles, and other sounds: the source of their nickname, "sea canary".

Every summer, nearly 50,000 belugas gather in Hudson Bay for unknown reasons. Their proximity to the shore makes this an ideal time for researchers to get a glimpse into their lives. Individual whales are photographed in the hopes of being able to identify them year after year.

So many whales, so few scientists.

It will require a team effort to ID all those whales, and these researchers need some help. That's where YOU come in!



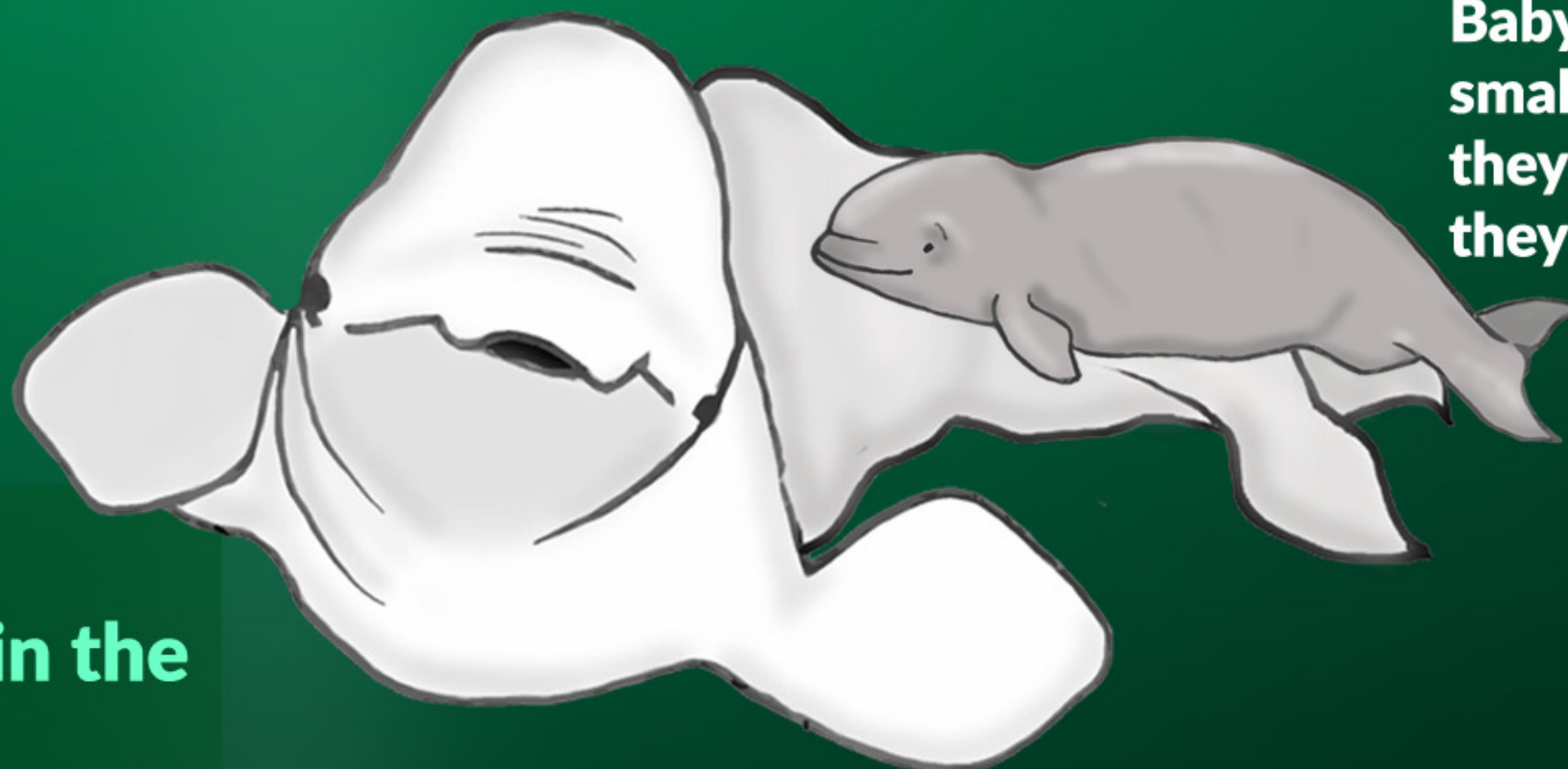
But how? Hudson Bay is far (and cold!).

**STEP 1** Enter the Zooniverse

Visit Zooniverse to find whale portraits that need identifying:  
[www.zooniverse.org/projects/stephenresearch/beluga-bits](http://www.zooniverse.org/projects/stephenresearch/beluga-bits)

**2** Beluga or no beluga?

Is there a beluga visible in the photo?



Baby belugas are small and born grey; they get lighter as they age.

**3** How many, how old?

Count how many belugas there are in the picture, and estimate their age.

**4** Female or male?

Note: this is only possible if their underside is visible!



**5** Noteworthy marks?

Are there any nicks on the tail, or fins? Maybe an odd pigmented spot, or rake mark? Any unique marking will help to keep track of individual whales later on!

**6** Repeat!

How many whale photos can you get through in one sitting?



Have fun, and thank you, citizen scientists!  
With your help, we can learn more about beluga behavior.