

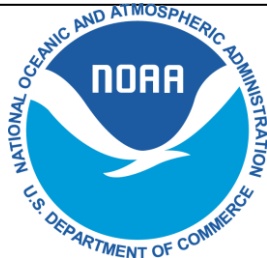
The Future of Cook Inlet Beluga Whales

What is Your Opinion?



The population of beluga whales in the Cook Inlet of Alaska declined rapidly during the 1990s and consequently was listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act in 2008. Some actions have been taken to protect Cook Inlet beluga whales and more actions are now being considered. This survey collects public opinions about these possible new actions. Government officials will consider your opinions, along with information from scientists and planners, when selecting what and how much to do.

Even though you may not be familiar with this issue, your opinions matter. Government actions to protect Cook Inlet beluga whales will affect all U.S. households through federal government spending.



The material in this survey is based on the best available information from government, university, and industry scientists.

This survey is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a U.S. government agency charged with making decisions about Cook Inlet beluga whale management activities.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 25 minutes, including time for reviewing instructions, reviewing existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. Your name and address will be kept separate from your responses. Only your responses will be provided to the researchers for analysis.

Q1 Protecting threatened and endangered species is one of many issues facing the U.S. To help us place this issue in perspective, answer this question based on what you know now. For each issue, compared to what is being done now in the U.S., do you think we should be doing less, doing about the same, or doing more? *For each item, check one box.*

	Do less ▼	Do about the same ▼	Do more ▼
Make government more efficient.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve education.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protect threatened and endangered species.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve roads and highways.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage economic growth and jobs.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean up air and water pollution.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Issue: Endangered Cook Inlet Beluga Whales

The Cook Inlet beluga whale is protected as an endangered species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. According to the act:

An endangered species is a plant or animal species that is in danger of going extinct in areas where it normally lives.

A threatened species is a species that is at risk of becoming endangered in areas where it normally lives.

The Endangered Species Act requires the federal government to take reasonable actions to protect threatened and endangered species, such as limiting human activities that may harm them or protecting the places where they live.

Q2 The Endangered Species Act currently protects 86 mammals, 90 birds, 138 fish, 294 other species such as reptiles and insects, and 718 plants. When you think of the Endangered Species Act, how positive or negative is your general reaction? *Check one box.*

- Mostly positive
- Somewhat positive
- Neither positive nor negative
- Somewhat negative
- Mostly negative
- Don't know

The Endangered Species Act protects either the entire species, or one or more distinct populations within a species. Distinct populations are different from the rest of the species because of physical, genetic, ecological, or behavioral characteristics.

Cook Inlet beluga whales are a distinct population of beluga whales that are geographically isolated and do not interact with other beluga whale populations in Alaska.

Q3 Before today, were you aware that the Endangered Species Act protects distinct populations for some species in addition to entire species? *Check one box.*

- Yes
- No

Some people are interested in protecting threatened and endangered species because they:

- Are a source of enjoyment and learning for people now and in the future.
- May help to show whether the environment and ecosystem are healthy.
- May provide medicines and other helpful substances for humans someday, even if we don't yet know what these uses are.
- Have a right to exist and should not be endangered by man's actions.

Some people are concerned about actions to protect threatened and endangered species because they:

- May place restrictions on what people can do, such as limiting recreation, forestry, land development and use, and hunting and fishing activities.
- May increase the cost of producing and providing goods such as food, housing, drinking water, and lumber, which increases some of the prices consumers pay.
- May not be effective if the decline of the species is due to causes beyond the control of humans.
- Use government funds and resources that could be used for other important issues.

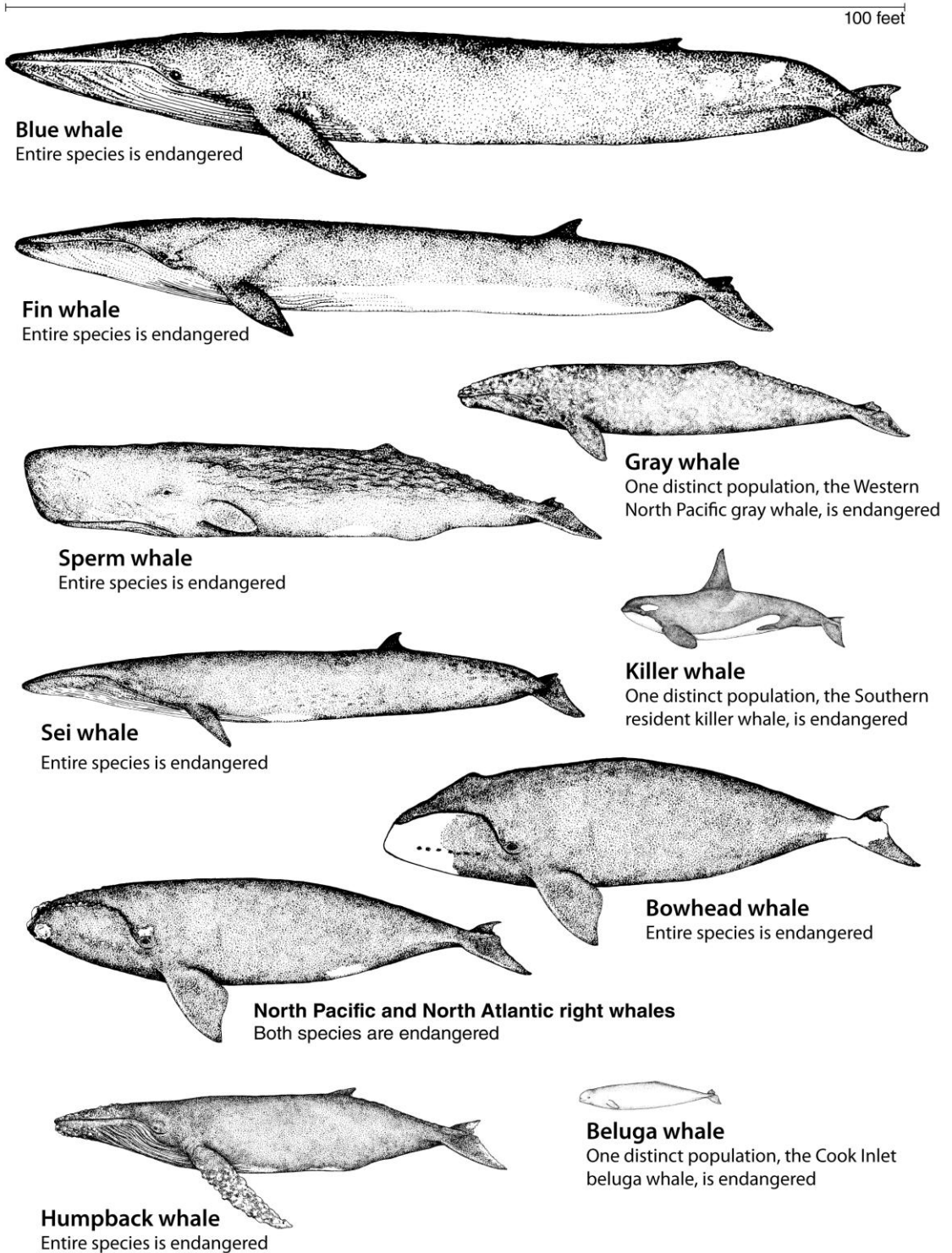
Q4 From strongly disagree to strongly agree, how do you feel about these statements?

Check one box for each statement.

	Strongly disagree ▼	Somewhat disagree ▼	Neither agree nor disagree ▼	Somewhat agree ▼	Strongly agree ▼
Protecting threatened and endangered species is important to me.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting jobs is more important than protecting threatened and endangered species.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The beluga whale is one of 11 whale species found in U.S. waters that are listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The figure below shows these endangered whale species (pictures are to scale).

Endangered Whales in U.S. Waters



Q5 Have you personally observed whales in nature (outside of aquariums)? *Check one box.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Some Beluga Whale Facts

- **Adult beluga whales are white in appearance, can grow to an average of 15 feet long, weigh over 3,000 pounds, and live about 30 years. Males are larger than females.**
- **They are social animals, and typically hunt, travel, and interact in small groups.**
- **Beluga whales are found in Arctic and subarctic regions of Russia, Greenland, and North America, usually in areas of the ocean that are covered by ice during part of the year.**
- **There are 29 distinct populations of beluga whales in the world, including 5 in Alaska.**
- **In Alaska, beluga whales mostly eat fish, such as cod and salmon. An adult beluga whale may eat 50 pounds of food in a day.**
- **Some beluga whale distinct populations migrate, but others live in one area year round.**

Q6 Before today, had you ever seen, heard about, or read about beluga whales? *Check one box.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Beluga Whales in the U.S.



From: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fisheries Service. 2008.

Five beluga whale populations (or “stocks”) live in U.S. waters off the coast of the State of Alaska in the Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, Bering Sea, Bristol Bay, and Cook Inlet (see map).

Population estimates for the 5 distinct populations of beluga whales in the U.S.:

U.S. beluga whale distinct population	Approximate size of distinct population (current population trend)
Beaufort Sea	32,000 (not known if increasing or decreasing)
Eastern Chukchi Sea	3,700 (appears to be stable)
Eastern Bering Sea	15,000 (not known if increasing or decreasing)
Bristol Bay	4,000 (appears to be stable or increasing)
<i>Cook Inlet</i>	<i>321 (decreasing)</i>

Q7 From strongly disagree to strongly agree, how do you feel about the following statement?
Check one box.

Strongly disagree Somewhat disagree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat agree Strongly agree
 ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

Since some distinct populations of U.S. beluga whales are increasing or stable, I am not concerned about the ones that are decreasing.....

Cook Inlet Beluga Whales

Of the five distinct populations of beluga whales found in the U.S., the Cook Inlet beluga whale is considered by scientists to be the most isolated, both geographically and genetically, from the other populations. It is also the smallest of the five U.S. populations of beluga whale. The Cook Inlet beluga whale lives in Cook Inlet year round.

Currently, the Cook Inlet beluga whale is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Q8 Before today, had you ever seen, heard about, or read about Cook Inlet beluga whales?

Check one box.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Cook Inlet beluga whales live most of the year in the northern part of Cook Inlet near Anchorage, Alaska's largest city. Because of where it lives, the population of Cook Inlet beluga whales is vulnerable to pollution and human activities.

- In Alaska, Alaska Native tribes have hunted beluga whales for food, oil, and traditional uses for centuries. Beluga whale hunting in U.S. waters is only permitted for Native tribes and is illegal for all others.
- Between 1994 and 1998, over 300 beluga whales were killed in the Cook Inlet by Alaska Natives in legal hunts. This was a dramatic increase from the small hunts reported in the past.
- The population declined by almost a half during this period of increased hunting.

Scientists believe Alaska Native hunting was the primary cause of this decline. In 1998, the federal government began restricting Cook Inlet beluga whale hunting by Alaska Natives.

- Between 1999 and 2006, Alaska Natives killed a total of five beluga whales in legal hunts in the Cook Inlet.
- Beginning in 2007, all hunting of Cook Inlet beluga whales was suspended until the population has recovered enough for hunting to resume.

As a result of these protection actions, scientists believed the Cook Inlet beluga whale population would begin increasing by 2% to 6% per year.

Despite these measures, the population of Cook Inlet beluga whales is not growing as scientists had expected and has declined to 321 whales. It is not known whether this is a result of natural factors, human-related factors, or a combination of both.

Numerous factors are believed to contribute to the continuing decline of Cook Inlet beluga whales, and the extent to which each factor affects the population is being investigated by scientists. They include the following:

Natural factors

- Beluga whales becoming stranded in the mud during low tide
- Killer whales chasing and eating beluga whales
- Illness caused by parasites and disease

Human-related factors

- Illegal hunting of beluga whales
- Commercial and recreational fishing, decreasing the food available for beluga whales to eat
- Pollution from sewage, airports, cities, and other sources causing illness or injury
- Oil spills and noise from oil tankers and drilling platforms harming beluga whales
- Dredging and building activities where beluga whales live
- Ships and boats hitting or disturbing beluga whales
- Underwater noise, damaging or interfering with beluga whales' hearing

Q9 After looking at the information in this handout, how concerned are you, if at all, about the Cook Inlet beluga whale? *Please check one box.*

Not at all concerned	A little concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned	Extremely concerned
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Scientists have predicted that without changes to reverse the decline of the Cook Inlet beluga population from the current 321 whales, the population is likely to disappear permanently. With a small population, Cook Inlet beluga whales are more vulnerable to rare events, such as oil spills or there being few successful births.

Using the best information and prediction methods available, scientists have estimated that under current conditions, there is a 25 percent risk (1 in 4 chance) that the population will be extinct in 100 years (by the year 2110).

Q10 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *Check one box.*

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
A 25% risk of extinction in 100 years for Cook Inlet beluga whales makes me concerned that they will actually go extinct.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

New Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Protection Actions

To help the population recover, the federal government is considering additional actions to protect Cook Inlet beluga whales and their habitat from human activities that may increase the risk of extinction.

- **Recover** means the species’ population has increased to the point where, the risk of extinction in the foreseeable future is very small and the species can be removed from the list of endangered and threatened species.
- Examples of possible protection actions include restricting vessel traffic and speed in parts of the Cook Inlet, further regulating commercial fishing, reducing sources of pollution, ensuring coastal development minimizes impacts on Cook Inlet beluga whales, and increasing surveillance activities to identify and rescue stranded whales and prevent illegal hunting.
- The costs of the protection actions vary a great deal and depend upon the specific actions taken. Regardless of the type of action taken, these actions will require more enforcement of existing restrictions, and more monitoring and research to improve our understanding of the distinct population and the threats to it, particularly in the areas of the Cook Inlet used most by beluga whales.

Additional protection actions, above and beyond those currently in place for the Cook Inlet beluga whale, will cost every U.S. household more money.

- Your household’s costs increase through higher prices for products you buy and through increases in your federal taxes.
- Most of the increased cost will occur in the first 10 years while industries adjust to new requirements, and to fund more government enforcement and monitoring.

Q11 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *Please check one box.*

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
Even if it costs us more money, we should do more so that the Cook Inlet beluga whale recovers.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Even if businesses and individuals are negatively affected by them, the most effective protection actions should be used to protect Cook Inlet beluga whales.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What Alternatives Do You Prefer?

As we have discussed, new alternatives are being considered to protect Cook Inlet beluga whales. Your opinions are important to help understand what alternatives the public prefers, and will be used to help decision makers set policy. So, your responses are likely to affect government spending and the amount and use of your taxes.

The next questions compare the expected results for the Cook Inlet beluga population after 50 years under alternative programs of regulations, and government enforcement and monitoring. In each question, you are asked to compare Alternative A with two other alternatives:

- **Alternative A** presents the expected Endangered Species Act status and risk of extinction of the Cook Inlet beluga population after 50 years without additional protection actions beyond those currently in place. Continuing the current actions would not increase the costs to your household.
- **Alternatives B through I** present the expected Endangered Species Act status and risk of extinction of the Cook Inlet beluga whale population after 50 years under a range of the many possible alternatives that do more and cost more to protect Cook Inlet beluga whales.
 - The added cost to your household each year for 10 years above the cost of the current program is also listed.
 - Remember, if you spend money for this, it won't be available to buy other things.

Questions 12, 13, 14, and 15 cover a range of alternatives and costs. Since scientists are still working on the alternatives and estimating the possible costs, the results and costs for the alternatives may vary across questions. Please answer each question considering only the results and costs presented in that question.

For hypothetical questions like these, studies have shown that many people say they are willing to pay more for protecting threatened and endangered species than they actually would pay out of their pockets. We believe this happens because people do not really consider how big an impact an extra cost actually has to their family's budget when answering these types of questions. It is easy to be generous when you do not really need to open your wallet.

To avoid this, as you consider each question, please imagine your household actually paying the cost of the alternative you select out of your household's budget.

Q12 Which of the following three alternatives do you most prefer, and which do you least prefer?
 Please indicate your responses below the table.

	Results in 50 years for each alternative		
	Alternative A Current program	Alternative B	Alternative C
Population status..... (endangered now)	Endangered	Threatened	Endangered
Risk of extinction by the year 2110..... (25% now)	25%	15%	20%
Added cost to your household each year for 10 years.....	\$0	\$40	\$10

	<u>Alternative A</u>	<u>Alternative B</u>	<u>Alternative C</u>
Which alternative do you <u>prefer</u> the most? Check one box----->	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Which alternative do you <u>prefer</u> the least? Check one box----->	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q13 Here is the current program with two different alternatives. Which alternative do you most prefer, and which do you least prefer? Please indicate your responses below the table.

	Results in 50 years for each alternative		
	Alternative A Current program	Alternative D	Alternative E
Population status..... (endangered now)	Endangered	Endangered	Recovered
Risk of extinction by the year 2110..... (25% now)	25%	23%	2%
Added cost to your household each year for 10 years.....	\$0	\$5	\$80

	<u>Alternative A</u>	<u>Alternative D</u>	<u>Alternative E</u>
Which alternative do you <u>prefer</u> the most? Check one box----->	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Which alternative do you <u>prefer</u> the least? Check one box----->	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q14 Here is the current program and two more alternatives. Below the table, indicate which of these three alternatives you most prefer, and which you least prefer.

	Results in 50 years for each alternative		
	Alternative A Current program	Alternative F	Alternative G
Population status..... (endangered now)	Endangered	Threatened	Threatened
Risk of extinction by the year 2110..... (25% now)	25%	15%	20%
Added cost to your household each year for 10 years.....	\$0	\$40	\$20

Alternative A

Alternative F

Alternative G

Which alternative do you prefer the most? Check one box----->

Which alternative do you prefer the least? Check one box----->

Q15 Here, again, is the current program and two other alternatives. Below the table, indicate which of these three alternatives you most prefer, and which you least prefer.

	Results in 50 years for each alternative		
	Alternative A Current program	Alternative H	Alternative I
Population status..... (endangered now)	Endangered	Recovered	Threatened
Risk of extinction by the year 2110..... (25% now)	25%	1%	10%
Added cost to your household each year for 10 years.....	\$0	\$100	\$50

Alternative A

Alternative H

Alternative I

Which alternative do you prefer the most? Check one box----->

Which alternative do you prefer the least? Check one box----->

Q16 The following are statements some people tell us about their answers to Q12, Q13, Q14, and Q15. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? Mark the box of your response for each statement.

<i>When answering Q12, Q13, Q14, and Q15...</i>	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
I did not feel it was my responsibility to pay for the protection of Cook Inlet beluga whales.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There was not enough information for me to make an informed choice between the alternatives.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The added costs I was willing to pay were just to protect Cook Inlet beluga whales, and not to protect other species.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I was concerned that the federal government will not effectively protect Cook Inlet beluga whales.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I felt I should not have to pay more federal taxes for any reason.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I didn't think that scientists can make good predictions about what will happen in 50 or 100 years.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I didn't feel qualified to choose between different levels of risks of extinction.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I didn't want to pay for Cook Inlet beluga whale protections if there is still a risk it may become extinct in the future.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q17 These questions were asked to obtain public input for decision makers to consider along with information from scientists and planners. People feel differently about how confident they are with their selection of alternatives and the costs they would have to pay.

How confident are you that your answers in Q12 through Q15 accurately reflect how you feel about the alternatives for protecting Cook Inlet beluga whales? Check the best answer.

Not at all confident	Slightly confident	Somewhat confident	Very confident	Extremely confident
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q18 Listed below are statements about the relationship between humans and the environment. For each statement please indicate how much you agree or disagree by checking the appropriate box.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
We are approaching the limit of the number of people the earth can support.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When humans interfere with nature it often produces disastrous consequences.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human ingenuity will insure that we do not make the earth unlivable.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Humans are abusing the environment.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The earth has plenty of natural resources if we just learn how to develop them.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plants and animals have as much right as humans to exist.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The balance of nature is strong enough to cope with the impacts of modern industrial nations.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Humans will eventually learn enough about how nature works to be able to control it...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If things continue on their present course we will soon experience an environmental catastrophe.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

About You and Your Household

This information is used to compare our survey respondents with the U.S. population. Your responses will be kept confidential and separate from your name and address. Material identifying you will be destroyed at the end of the study.

Q19 Are you male or female?

- Male
 Female

Q20 In what year were you born? 19_____

Q21 How many people do you live with in each of the following age groups?
If none for a category please write "0".

_____ Under 18 _____ 18 to 35 _____ 36 to 60 _____ Over 60

Q22 Which of the following best describes your employment status? *Check the box of your answer.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed full-time | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed part-time | <input type="checkbox"/> Currently unemployed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homemaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>)_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | |

Q23 Have you ever been a member or contributed time or money to an environmental or conservation organization? *Check the box of the best answer.*

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

Q24 How many hunting trips and sport or non-commercial fishing trips, if any, have you taken in the last 3 years? *For each type of trip, check the best answer.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <i>Hunting trips:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> None | <i>Fishing trips:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 or more | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 or more |

Q25 What is the highest grade or level of school you have completed? *Check the best answer.*

- Some high school or less
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Some college
- Two year college degree (AA, AS) or technical school
- Four year college graduate (BA, BS)
- Some graduate work but did not receive a graduate degree
- Graduate degree (MA, MS, MBA, PhD, JD, MD, etc.)

Q26 Do you own or rent your residence? *Check your answer.*

- Own
- Rent

Q27 Are you Hispanic or Latino? *Check the box of the best answer.*

- Yes
- No

Q28 Which of the following best describes you? *Check one or more.*

- Asian
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

Q29 What was your household income (before taxes) in 2006? *Check the box of the best answer.*

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 to \$19,999
- \$20,000 to \$29,999
- \$30,000 to \$39,999
- \$40,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$59,999
- \$60,000 to \$79,999
- \$80,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$124,999
- \$125,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 to \$200,000
- \$200,000 or more

Is there anything we overlooked?

Please use the space below to provide us with any other comments you would like to make.

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Telephone Follow-Up

[IF OBVIOUS YOUTH – Ask to speak with an adult]

Hello, my name is _____ and I am calling from TBD in [City, State] on behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. I am trying to reach [name on address].

[IF RESPONDENT IS NOT AVAILABLE] → Is there another adult of the household that I could speak to?

[IF NOT AVAILABLE] → Thank you, I will call back later. When would be a good time to reach [name, or another adult head of household]?

[IF QUALIFIED RESPONDENT IS ON THE PHONE]

QA Recently, we mailed you a questionnaire asking your opinions about the future of Cook Inlet beluga whales in Alaska and \$X as a token of our appreciation for completing the survey. The survey had a picture of a Cook Inlet beluga whale on the cover and some color graphics inside. Do you remember receiving that questionnaire?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [*SKIP TO QA2*]

QA1 As of today, we have not received your completed questionnaire. Your household is part of a small group of people we are asking for opinions, so your response is very important. If we send you another survey, could you find the time to complete the survey and return it to us within a week of receiving it?

- 1 YES – SEND NEW SURVEY [*SKIP TO VERIFY*]
- 2 YES – DO NOT NEED ANOTHER SURVEY [*THANK YOU. SKIP TO CONTINUE*]
- 3 SURVEY HAS ALREADY BEEN RETURNED [*THANK YOU, SKIP TO CONTINUE*]
- 4 NO [*SKIP TO QB*]

QA2 We are collecting public opinions for the federal government to consider when developing action plans for threatened and endangered species in Alaska. Your household is part of a small group of people we are asking for opinions, so your response is very important. If we send you another survey, could you return the survey to us within a week after you receive it?

- 1 YES – SEND NEW SURVEY [*SKIP TO VERIFY*]
- 2 YES – DO NOT NEED ANOTHER SURVEY [*SKIP TO CONTINUE*]
- 3 NO [*SKIP TO QA3*]

QA3 Since we are only contacting a small number of households, it is very important that we hear from your household. Your opinions will represent those of other households

similar to you. The survey does not require any special knowledge. Is there another adult head of household that would be interested in completing the survey?

- 1 YES, GETTING THEM TO THE PHONE [*REPEAT QA2*]
- 2 YES, BUT NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME [*SET CALLBACK*]
- 3 NO [*SKIP TO QB*]

QB It is very important for our analysis that we understand how those who haven't returned the survey compare to those who did. This way we will not misinterpret the results. Could I take about 4 minutes to ask you a few questions that will help us with our work? I'd like to remind you that all of your answers are confidential and your name will not be revealed to anyone.

- 1 YES [*SKIP TO Q1*]
- 2 NO [*ASK FOR A MORE CONVENIENT TIME, OTHERWISE, THANK AND TERMINATE*]

VERIFY (If new survey needs to be sent)

I would like to verify some information that I have. I have your name as...

NAME _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

Thank you, I will send another questionnaire out today.

CONTINUE (If they indicate survey has been or will be returned)

Receiving your completed questionnaire will be very helpful. Could I take 3 minutes to ask you 4 questions to help us with our preliminary results until we receive your completed questionnaire?

- 1 NO, or NOT NOW → OK. We look forward to receiving your completed questionnaire. [*SKIP TO TERMINATE*].
- 2 YES → [*CONTINUE WITH EVALUATE*]

EVALUATE

Q1 This question is about your overall opinion of the Endangered Species Act. Currently there are 74 mammals, 92 birds, 115 fish, 236 other species such as reptiles and insects, and 746 plants protected under the Endangered Species Act. When you think of the Endangered Species Act, how positive or negative is your general reaction? Is it... (Read answer options)

- 1 Mostly positive
- 2 Somewhat positive
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Somewhat negative
- 5 Mostly negative
- 9 [DON'T READ – BUT CODE IF STATED] Don't know

Q2 I will now read two statements. For each, tell me if you strongly disagree, somewhat disagree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat agree, or strongly agree.

	Strongly disagree ▼	Somewhat disagree ▼	Neither agree nor disagree ▼	Somewhat agree ▼	Strongly agree ▼
Protecting threatened and endangered species is important to me.....	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Protecting jobs is more important than protecting threatened and endangered species.....	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>

[RETURNING SURVEY] → I have just 2 quick questions about you and your household to help us group your responses with others.

[NOT RETURNING SURVEY] → I have just 3 quick questions about you and your household to help us group your responses with others.

Q3 In what year were you born? 19_____
Refused

Q4 [SKIP Q4 IF THEY INDICATE THEY ARE RETURNING THE SURVEY] Which of the following best describes the highest level of education you have completed?

- 1 Some high school or less
- 2 High school diploma or equivalent
- 3 Some college
- 4 Two year college degree (AA, AS) or technical school
- 5 Four year college graduate (BA, BS)
- 6 Some graduate work but did not receive a graduate degree
- 7 Graduate degree (MA, MS, MBA, PhD, JD, MD, etc.)
- 9 REFUSED

Q5 Into which of the following groups does your total annual household income fall before taxes?

- 1 Under \$30,000
- 2 \$30,000 - \$49,999
- 3 \$50,000 - \$79,999
- 4 \$80,000 and over

[IF RETURNING SURVEY] → Thank you, this will help with our preliminary analysis. Receiving your completed questionnaire will greatly help to have an accurate understanding of public opinion about government actions to protect Cook Inlet beluga whales.

[IF NOT RETURNING QUESTIONNAIRE] → That's all the questions I have for you. Do you have any comments that you would like to add? Thank you for your time. We really appreciate your participation in this brief survey. Thanks again, and have a good evening.

TERMINATE

[TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWER]

Respondent gender: MALE
 FEMALE

LANG Language or other barrier:

- 1 YES, POSSIBLE LANGUAGE BARRIER
- 2 YES, DEFINITE LANGUAGE BARRIER
- 3 NO LANGUAGE, BUT OTHER TYPE OF BARRIER *[SPECIFY]*
- 4 NO BARRIERS

DID THE RESPONDENT INDICATE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

A I don't care about Cook Inlet beluga whales or T&E species	NO	YES
B I don't know about Cook Inlet beluga whales, T&E species, etc.		NO
YES		

OTHER RESPONDENT COMMENTS

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS AND ANSWERS

[If concerned about purpose of the call] This is not a marketing or sales call. We are collecting public input for government, industry, and citizen groups to consider when developing action plans for threatened and endangered species in Alaska. I want to assure you that your answers will be kept confidential and your name will not be revealed to anyone.

[If asking about the study sponsor] This survey is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a U.S. government agency charged with making decisions about threatened and endangered marine mammals.

[Response to: “Why did you send money with the survey?”] The survey is very important and we find we can get more citizen input for less money by including a small token of our appreciation with the survey. More people return the survey faster, so we don’t have to contact as many households, or contact you as often, to get an accurate sample of the public’s input.

[I don’t know anything about Cook Inlet beluga whales or beluga whales]. The survey does not require to you have any special knowledge, we just ask that you consider each question and respond with your own opinion.

[I don’t care about Cook Inlet beluga whales]. It is important that we hear that on the survey. If we only receive surveys from people who care a lot, that would result in biased results about what public opinion really is.