

Monitoring Key

Site Name			
SC: Ship Creek MM95.3: Seward Hwy Mile Marker 95.3 TW: Twentymile River TP: The Point KE: Kenai River KA: Kasilof River			
Beluga Color / Age Classes			
Neonate	Very dark gray, hours to days old, extremely small size (around 1.5 m or 5 ft), and have a wrinkled appearance		
Calf	Dark gray, relatively small (<2/3 length of white beluga), typically swimming within 1 b/l of a larger whale		
Gray	Subadult, larger than calves, light to medium gray		
White	Adult, large size, bright white to dull white color		
Unknown	Any beluga not confidently identified		
Sighting Conditions			
1	Poor (for example: heavy fog/rain/snow, high glare, and/or substantial whitecaps make it difficult to see belugas)		
2	Fair (between poor and moderate visibility)		
3	Moderate (for example: some weather obstructs your view, but water conditions are suitable for identifying belugas; limited whitecaps)		
4	Good (between moderate and ideal visibility)		
5	Ideal (for example: no glare, no inclement weather, calm water surface making for easy beluga viewing)		
Beaufort Scale			
<i>Force</i>	<i>Knots</i>	<i>Wind Description</i>	<i>Wave Conditions</i>
0	<1	Calm	Sea surface smooth and mirror-like
1	1-3	Light Air	Scaly ripples, no foam crests
2	4-6	Light Breeze	Small wavelets, crests glassy, no breaking
3	7-10	Gentle Breeze	Large wavelets, crests begin to break, scattered whitecaps
4	11-16	Moderate Breeze	Small waves (1-4ft), becoming longer, numerous whitecaps
5	17-21	Fresh Breeze	Moderate waves (4-8ft), take longer to form, many whitecaps, some spray
6	22-27	Strong Breeze	Larger waves (8-13ft), whitecaps common, more spray
Beluga Behavior			
Travelling:	Moving in a linear or near-linear direction without interruption	Tail Slapping:	Hitting tail fluke vigorously against water surface producing a splash
Milling:	Moving in a non-linear, weaving, or circular pattern within area	Bubbling:	Producing many bubbles while submerged, not including normal subsurface exhalation
Diving:	Moving downward through the water column, often showing tail	Side Scanning:	Surface swimming with side body visible, often followed by explosive prey pursuit
Resting:	Floating at or near surface, with little or no movement for several minutes or more with no other suspected behavior	Spyhopping:	Holding body vertically with head out of water for several seconds or more
Feeding Observed:	Observed with fish in mouth	Tail Waving:	Body vertical with tail out of water for several seconds or more, often slowly waving tail, but not tail slapping
Feeding Suspected:	Diving, chasing, pursuing prey or lunging; proxy events (jumping fish, seabirds)	Mating Suspected:	Two individuals swimming in same direction or rolling in place in ventral contact
Snorkeling:	Surfacing with a low profile, only blowhole, melon, and small portion of dorsal just posterior to blowhole visible	Calving:	Provide detailed comments if you list this behavior
Avoiding Predation:	Moving with speed and/or abrupt changes in direction in response to an observed predator	Other:	Unclassified behavior (must have comment)
Vocalizing:	Emitting audible sound (e.g., snorts, whistles, chirps)	Unknown:	Behavior indistinguishable