

**ENDANGERED**

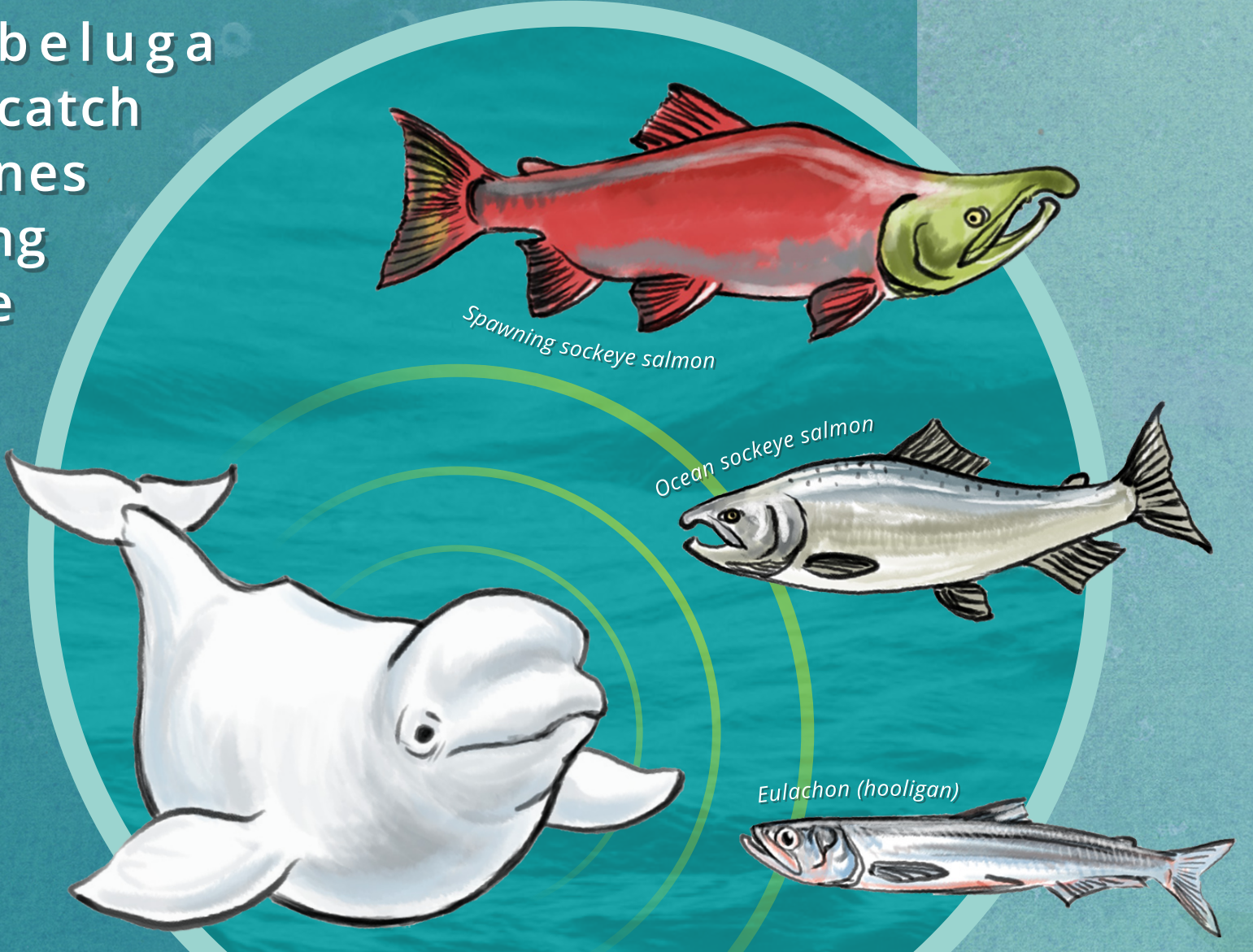
# Cook Inlet Belugas

**Recovery Threats**

- disease
- habitat loss
- cumulative impacts
- vessel strikes
- predation
- pollution
- strandings
- climate change
- spills
- entanglement
- noise
- prey
- natural disasters
- harassment

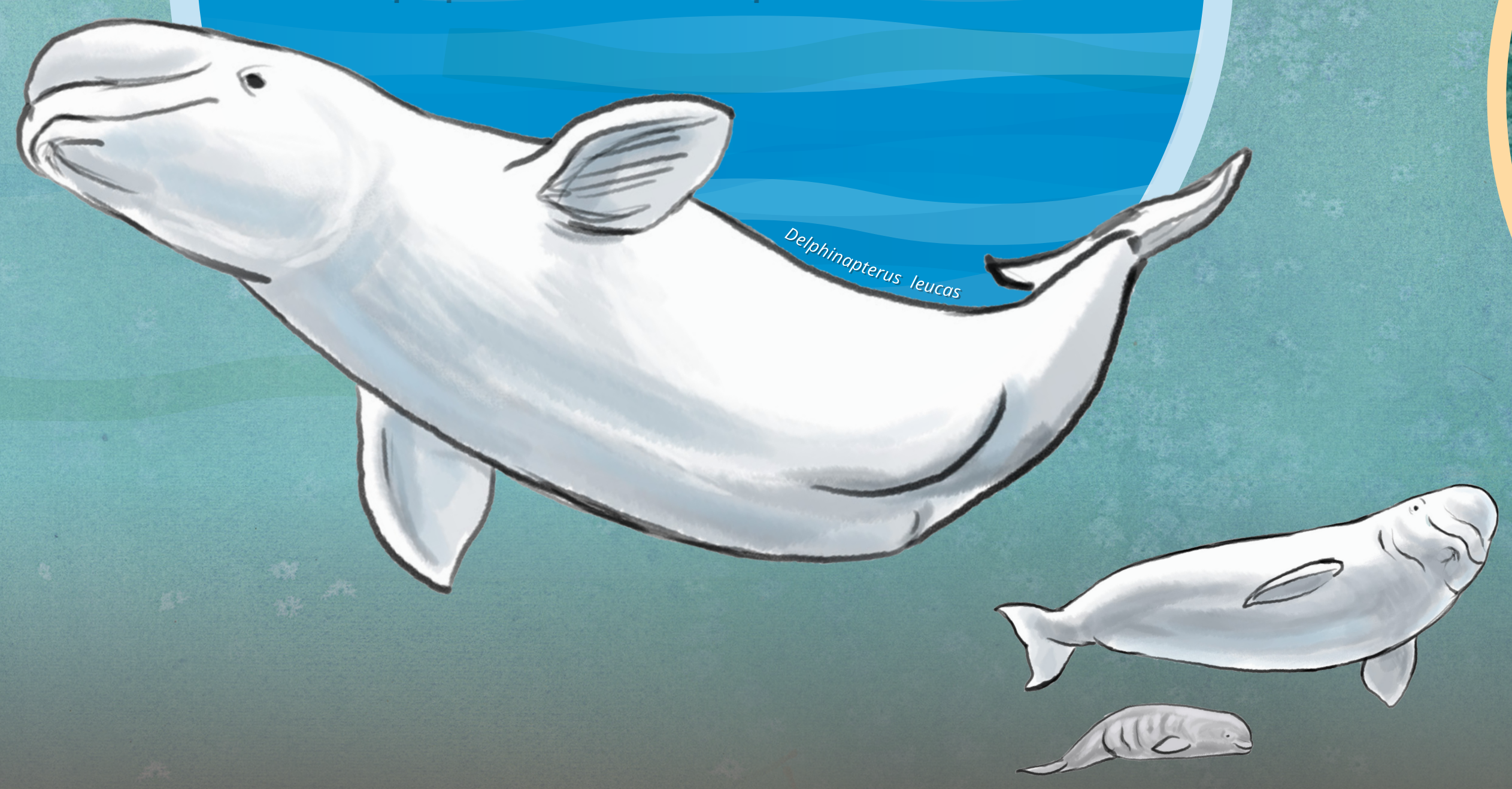
## Fishers and Foragers

Humans and beluga whales gather to catch fish near shorelines and in rivers during seasonal runs. We use rods and nets while they use echolocation. Healthy fish populations and ecosystems benefit both humans and belugas.



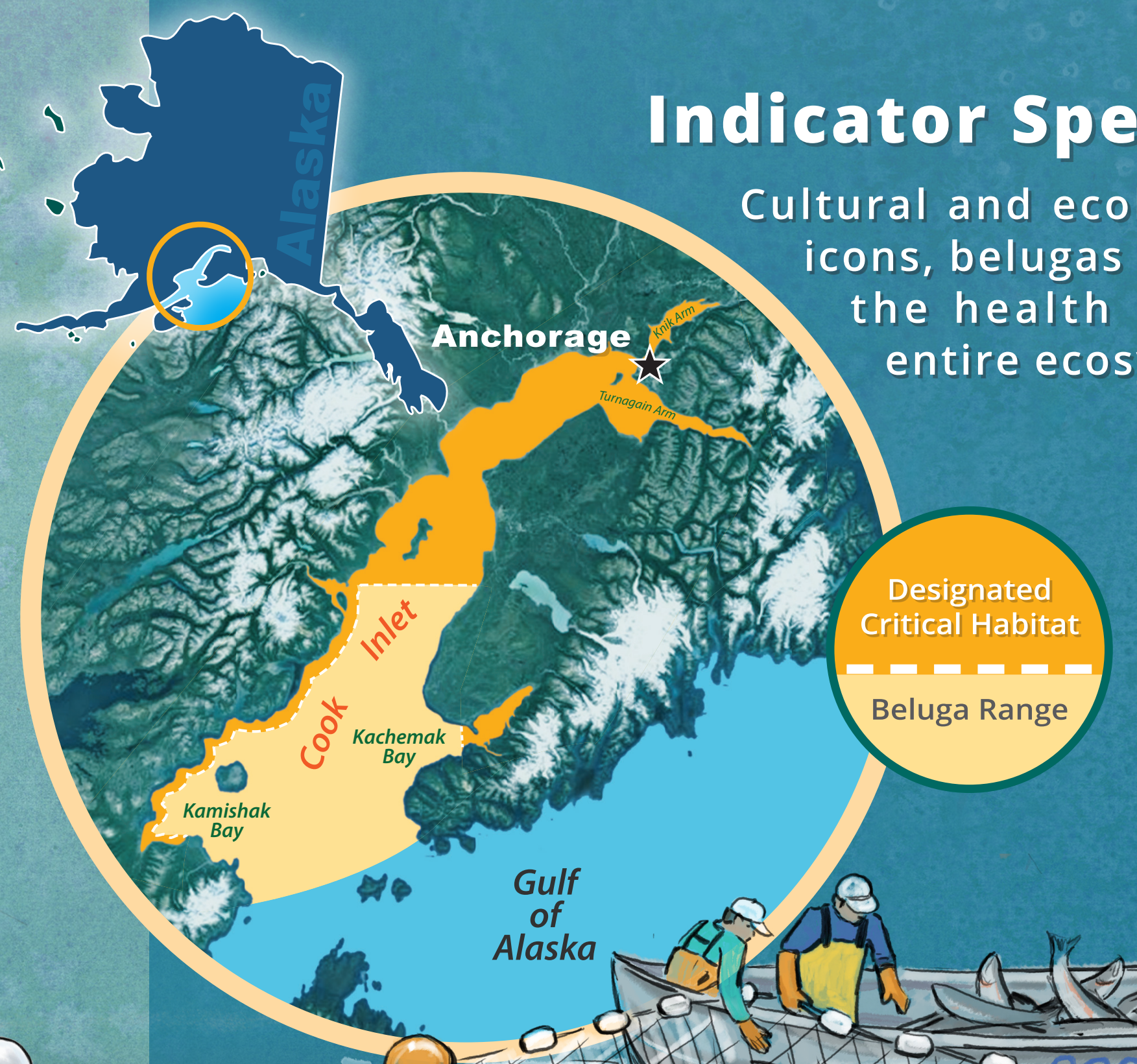
## Traditional Importance

Known as *quyushi* (one that swims up) in the upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina dialect, the beluga is a traditional subsistence food source which holds cultural significance. Alaska Native hunters suspended harvesting this population to help conserve them.



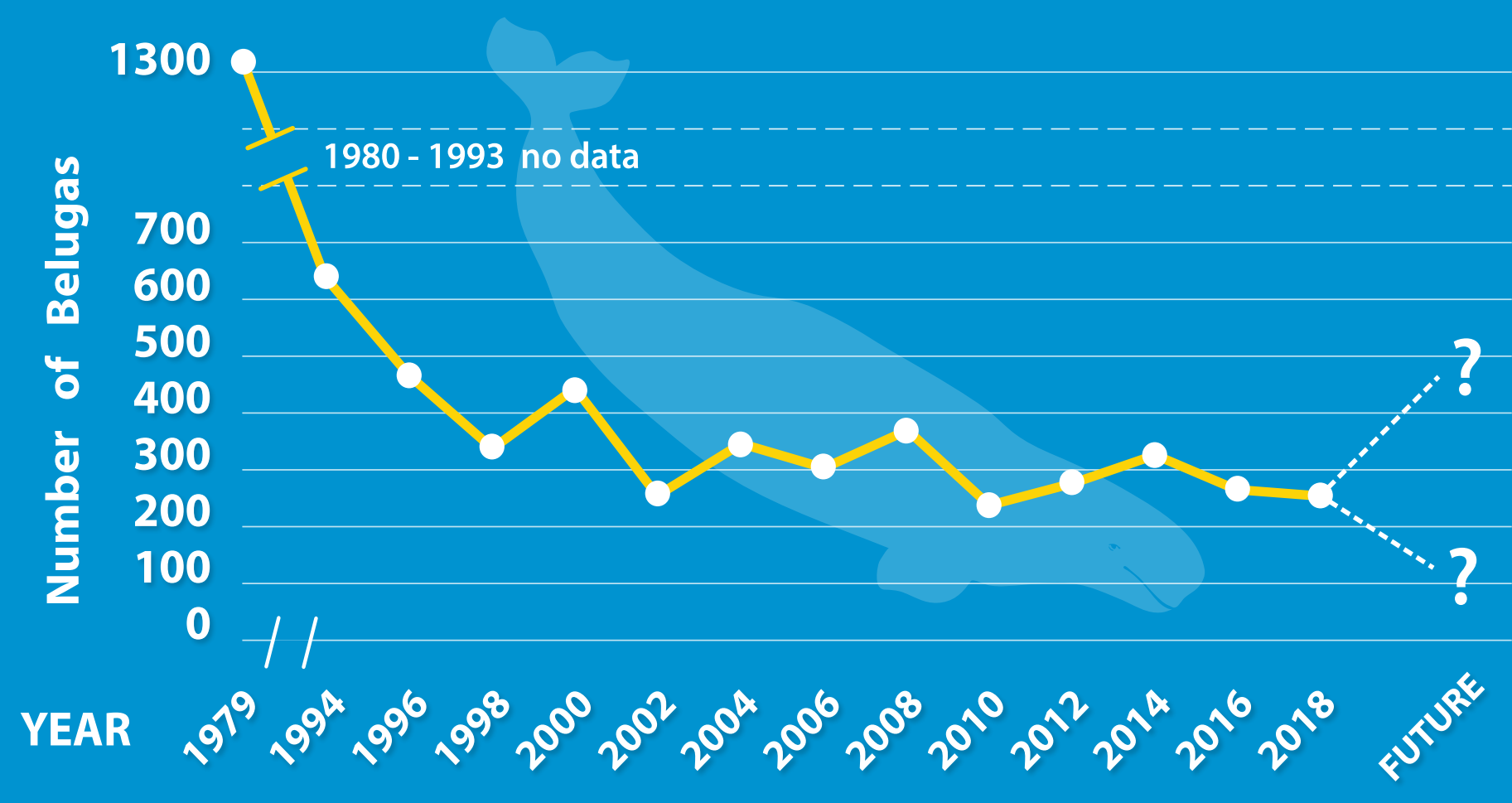
## Indicator Species

Cultural and ecological icons, belugas reflect the health of the entire ecosystem.



## Did You Know?

Cook Inlet belugas can be observed near our communities and highways. They are geographically isolated and genetically unique from other beluga populations, and they live in Cook Inlet year-round.



## Decline

Despite focused research and recovery efforts, scientists do not know why this population is declining. What does the future hold?

**YOU CAN HELP!**



Report all live and dead beluga sightings to:  
[fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/help-belugas](https://fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/help-belugas)

