

# Nunavik and James Bay beluga aerial survey

**Dates:** Mid-July to mid-September

**Recurrence:** Approximately every 5 years, since 1985

**Location:** Eastern Hudson Bay and James Bay

**Aircraft:** Chartered fixed wings aircraft



## Description

This survey aims to estimate the abundance of the James Bay (JAM) and Belcher Islands-eastern Hudson Bay (BEL-EHB) beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*) stocks. Regular surveys flown by DFO using consistent methods since 1985 constitutes a time series enabling the assessment of the trend of the different stocks. The survey consists in parallel lines evenly spaced and covering all of James Bay, as well as eastern Hudson Bay from the coastline to 60 km West of the Belcher Islands. Visual observations of all marine mammal species sighted by observers onboard the aircrafts are recorded.

## Objectives

1. Collect systematic, visual observations to estimate the abundance of the JAM and BEL-EHB beluga stocks;
2. Collect systematic, visual observations of all marine mammal species inhabiting James Bay and the eastern Hudson Bay- Belcher Islands area during summer; and
3. Build local capacity in marine mammal identification and monitoring.

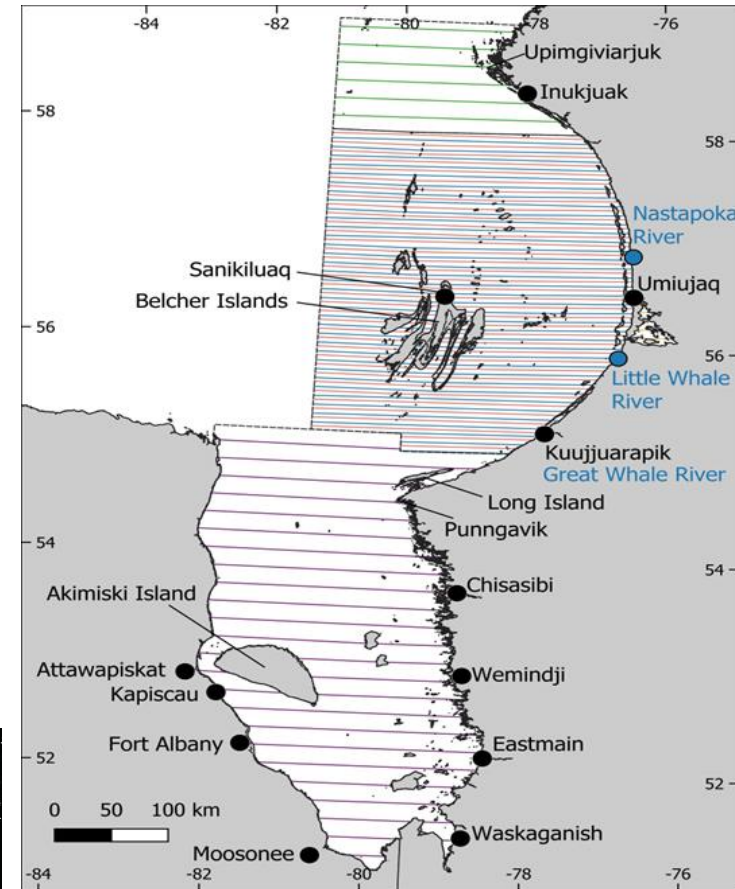


Figure 1: Area covered by aerial survey in eastern Hudson bay and James Bay.