

Belugas Count! 2023

Poster Design Contest

Submission Instructions and Rules

Introduction to Contest

In honor of the 5th anniversary of Belugas Count!, and the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Endangered Species Act, NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region and our Belugas Count! event partners invite artists from Alaska to submit artwork to be featured on the 2023 event poster.

The chosen design will be featured on 2023 Belugas Count! event posters, the Belugas Count! Facebook page, NOAA Fisheries websites, and other NOAA Fisheries printed and electronic materials. The winning artist will be recognized on these platforms and showcased on the Belugas Count! Facebook page as well as the Belugas Count! NOAA Fisheries website. For artists between the ages of 12-18, parental consent will be requested for public artist recognition.

Background

Established in 2017, Belugas Count! is the largest single-day public education outreach event for the endangered Cook Inlet beluga whale and the largest outreach event led by the NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region. The event is a collaboration among federal and state agencies, local and national organizations, academia, and aquaria. It focuses on fostering local pride, awareness, and stewardship of Cook Inlet belugas in support of their recovery. The 2023 event will be held September 23, 2023 at multiple locations throughout Cook Inlet, Alaska.

Event Theme

The theme of Belugas Count! 2023 is “Celebrating 50 Years of Endangered Species Conservation and Recovery in Alaska.”

Submission Guidelines

- Artwork must be two-dimensional and can be paintings, drawings, prints, mixed media, or digital art. AI-generated art and photography are not eligible.
- The artwork must include the event title “Belugas Count! 2023” and an image of a beluga whale.
- Any writing included in the design must be clearly legible.
- Final printed poster dimensions may not exceed 36x48 inches, in either portrait or landscape orientation. Artwork should be created with these maximum dimensions in mind.

- The submission period begins April 7, 2023, and concludes on June 1, 2023 at 11:59 pm Alaska Time. Late submissions will not be considered.
- A maximum of one entry per individual will be permitted.
- Accepted file types are: JPEG/JPG and PNG.
- Image files must be high resolution, at least 300 ppi for rectangular works (a minimum of 3300 pixels on the long side and 2550 pixels on the short side).
- The file name should be your full name without spaces, e.g., BettyBeluga.jpg.
- Submissions should be emailed to Jill.Seymour@noaa.gov. Emails must include:
 - Subject heading of “Belugas Count! poster contest submission”,
 - the image file as an attachment, and
 - a brief description of the artist and any pertinent information about the work submitted (less than 250 words; please no links to external webpages).
- All submissions are considered final and may not be modified, edited, or replaced.

Content Requirements

Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and must not contain any elements that are protected by someone else’s copyright or otherwise subject to third-party intellectual property or proprietary rights, including privacy and publicity rights. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image that was created by someone other than the submitting artist is a violation of the rules and will not be accepted. Submissions of “fair use” copyrighted material or licensed materials created or owned by a third party will not be considered.

The **content of all submissions must be suitable for a national, public audience**. Submissions must not contain obscenity, explicit sexual material, nudity, profanity, graphic violence, calls or incitement to violence, commercial solicitation or promotion. Submissions must not contain content or images that could be considered abusive, inflammatory, denigrating, or disrespectful to any groups, individuals, or institutions. Submissions must adhere to the norms of civil discourse.

NOAA Fisheries reserves the right to disqualify, at its sole and absolute discretion, any submission that does not adhere to these criteria.

Judging Criteria

Poster design judging and selection will be conducted by a jury composed of Belugas Count! event partners. The design will be selected according to the following general criteria:

- Originality, visual design, and aesthetic appeal
- Adherence to the Belugas Count! theme
- Adherence to contest rules
- Consistency with current scientific information on Cook Inlet beluga whales and their habitat

One design will be chosen and the winner will be notified electronically via email.

The chosen design will be featured on 2023 Belugas Count! event posters, the Belugas Count! Facebook page, NOAA Fisheries website, and other NOAA Fisheries printed and electronic materials. For artists between the ages of 12-18, parental consent will be requested for public artist recognition.

Who May Submit

- The contest is open to all visual artists, whether professionals or nonprofessionals.
- Artists must be at least 12 years old at the time of the submission in order to participate in this contest.
- All artists must be living in Alaska or Alaska residents.

Other

- NOAA Fisheries reserves the right to add additional information to the final poster that is pertinent to the event, such as the event date, time, and website.
- As printing costs will be funded by NOAA Fisheries, the agency logo will be added to the final poster.
- Minor color changes to the chosen design may occur during the printing process as a result of the printing method(s) and material(s) chosen.
- NOAA Fisheries reserves the right to use its own internally developed poster should the jury or agency determine that no submission meets the needs of the Belugas Count! 2023 event.
- Artist credit will be included on the poster.