

Listen to the audio and try to say the words in bold

## Article 10. Military Cetaceans

When a beluga whale started approaching fishing boats and pulling on ropes near a small Norwegian town in April, people became suspicious. The beluga was wearing a **harness** that looked like it could carry a camera, and "Equipment of St. Petersburg" was stamped on the inside.

Marine experts have suggested that the whale was part of a **Russian** military program that trains **cetaceans** for operations. The ability of these animals to detect and find targets at depth or in **murky** water is something technology cannot **duplicate** yet, but which militaries find very valuable.

The U.S. Navy trains its marine mammals including California sea lions and bottlenose dolphins—to find and retrieve equipment lost at sea and to identify **intruders** swimming into restricted areas. The dolphins are also used to detect **mines** that are either buried in the seafloor or floating in the water, **tethered** to an **anchor**.

Both California sea lions and bottlenose dolphins are fairly **hardy**, smart, and very trainable. Sea lions also have the advantage of being **amphibious**. That is why the U.S. Navy ended up using them instead of other marine mammals like false killer whales or belugas, which they also initially looked at.

[nationalgeographic.com/news/2019/5/140328-navy-dolphin-sea-lion-combat-ocean-animal-science/](https://nationalgeographic.com/news/2019/5/140328-navy-dolphin-sea-lion-combat-ocean-animal-science/)

Now, let's take 5 minutes to appreciate these majestic cetaceans in their natural habitat



This is why we are called the gentle giants of the sea

