

# “Russian spy” whale surfaces off Sweden

A beluga whale has reappeared off the coast of Sweden four years after it was seen in Norway wearing a harness, prompting speculation it was a spy trained by the Russian navy

Picture: Jørgen Ree Wiig/  
Norwegian Directorate  
of Fisheries

## WHALE TIMELINE

**1 Apr 2019:** Tame beluga whale arrives in northern Norway, wearing harness with camera mount and label sourcing it to St Petersburg. Marine biologists remove harness

**2 May 2023:** Whale seen in Oslofjord after spending years swimming around Norwegian coast

**3 May 28:** Observed in Hunnebostrand, Sweden, moving further away from its natural habitat in Arctic Ocean and nearby seas

*Beluga nicknamed  
“Hvaldimir” wearing  
harness in 2019*

**Murmansk:** Base of Russia’s Northern Fleet. Norwegian officials believe whale may have escaped from Russian navy training programme

