

Opportunistic Sightings Form



Sighting Reference ID

Record as much details as possible but even partial data is helpful

SIGHTED FROM	
Land	
Yacht	
Motorboat	
Fishing boat	
Ferry	
Other:	

BEHAVIOUR	
Blow (only spout seen)	
Slow / normal swim	
Fast swim	
Feeding	
Leap / splashing	
Bow ride	
Resting / Milling	
Sexual	
Other	

IDENTIFICATION ACCURACY	
Definite	
Probable	
Possible	

SEA STATE	
0 - mirror calm	
1 - slight ripples, no whitewater	
2 - small wavelets, glassy crests, no whitecaps	
3 - large wavelets, crest begin to break, few whitecaps	
4 - longer waves, many whitecaps	
5 - moderate waves of longer form, some spray	
6 - large waves, many whitecaps everywhere	
Other	

SWELL HEIGHT	
Light (<1m)	
Moderate (1-2m)	
Heavy (>2m)	

VISIBILITY	
< 1km	
1-5 km	
6-10 km	
11 - 15 km	
16 - 20 km	
> 20km	

CONTACT DETAILS	
Name*	Email*
Address	
Telephone	Vessel Name

SIGHTING DETAILS	
SPECIES	
Time (UTC)	DATE (day/month/year)
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE Use degrees and decimal minutes or If Lat/long not available give general position or distance and direction to charted feature.	
Distance from observer (metres)	Other species. No. of animal / birds feeding in vicinity

GROUP SIZE	
Best estimate	
Minimum	
Maximum	
Number of Adults	
Number of Juveniles (75% of adult size)	
Number of Calves (50% of adult size)	

VESSEL	
Depth (m)	
Engine (on/off)	
Depth Sounder (on/off)	
COG (360° bearing)	
SOG (Knots, mph etc)	
No. of other vessels in 1km radius	

SPECIES DESCRIPTION / BEHAVIOUR FIELD NOTES
Estimate body size, if appropriate comparison with boat length. If seen, describe head shape and presence of beak, Note shape of dorsal fin relative to centre of body. Note colour, strips or patterns. Describe blow if visible. Describe behaviour and interactions.

DIRECTION OF MOVEMENT
Draw arrow(s) to represent animals direction of movement in relation to vessel.