



# VESSEL-BASED SIGHTINGS RECORDING FORM

RECORD AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE, BUT REMEMBER THAT EVEN PARTIAL DATA MAY BE HELPFUL!

CONTACT NAME ..... ADDRESS .....

E-mail: ..... PHONE ..... BOAT NAME .....

Ref. No.	SPECIES	CONF.	TOTAL NO.	NO. ADULTS	NO. CALVES	LOCATION	TIME BST/GMT	DATE dd/mm/yy	SEA STATE	DIST. TO ANIMAL	BEHAVIOUR (incl. dir. of travel)	ASSOC. SEABIRDS	OBSERVER NAME

**DATA DEFINITIONS:** use categories provided where possible; *Continue on separate sheet if necessary*  
**Reference No.:** number each sighting sequentially to allow for cross-reference **Time:** 24-hour clock; circle BST or GMT  
**Location:** record latitude and longitude (degrees and decimal minutes), if lat/long unavailable, note location in relation to local landmarks  
**Species:** give the best judgement of species ID; use general categories if unsure (e.g. dolphin species); use initials: HP = Harbour Porpoise; BND = Bottlenose Dolphin, CD = Common Dolphin, WBD = White-beaked Dolphin, AWSD = Atlantic White-sided Dolphin, RD = Risso's Dolphin, KW = Killer Whale, LFPW = Long-finned Pilot Whale, MW = Minke Whale, FW = Fin Whale, HW = Humpback Whale. **Confidence:** Definite; Probable; Possible  
**Total No.:** give range if unsure of exact number **Juveniles/Calves:** estimate counts of different-sized animals in 2 size classes relative to percent adult body size  
**Sea State:** enter number: 0 = mirror calm; 1 = slight ripples, no foam crests; 2 = small wavelets, glassy crests, but no whitecaps; 3 = large wavelets, crests begin to break, few whitecaps; 4 = longer waves, many whitecaps; 5 = moderate waves of longer form, some spray; 6 = large waves, whitecaps everywhere, frequent spray; 7 = sea heaps up, white foam blows in streaks  
**Distance to Animal:** Give estimated distance to animal from the observer in metres **Behaviour:** Surfacing (SURF), Slow (SS), Normal (NS) or Fast Swim (FS); Feeding (FEED); Leap/Breach (LEAP); Bow-Ride (BOWR); Body Slap (BODSL), Tail Slap (TAILSL); Flipper Slap (FLIPSL), Spy-hop (SH); Bottling in Seals (BOT), Logging (LOG), Milling (MILL); Aggressive (AGG); Socialising (SOCIAL), Sexual/Mating (SEX)  
**Direction of Travel:** note general direction of movement, or whether direction is variable  
**Associated Seabirds:** note seabirds closely associated with the animals; record species of bird, if known, and estimated number of birds of each species

Please return forms either digitally at [formsswf@gmail.com](mailto:formsswf@gmail.com) (as jpg or pdf) or by post to Sea Watch Foundation, Ewyn y Don, Bull Bay, Amlwch, Anglesey LL68 9SD, UK