



Protocol

How to record data

Write the **DATE**, the **NAME OF THE BOAT**, **YOUR NAME** and the **AREA** you are sailing around (e.g. Canaries, Galicia, Azores, Atlantic westward crossing,...).

EFFORT

We call **EFFORT** the dedicated period of time we are looking for whales and dolphins. To account for it, we indicate time and conditions when we start looking (**EFFORT ON**), every hour (**EFFORT BY**) and when we finish (**EFFORT OFF**).

To fill this part:

- ↳ **TIME** (UTC/GMT, hh:mm, using 24 hours)
- ↳ **LOCATION** (**GPS coordinates** in decimal degrees, otherwise, please indicate the right format!)
- ↳ **VISIBILITY**. We set four levels according to how far we can see.
 - 😊 **Very good**. The best one, with more than 15 km.
 - 😊 **Good**. Between 5 and 15 km.
 - 😞 **Bad**. Between 1 and 5 km.
 - 😞😞 **Very bad**. Less than 1km, usually very foggy or rainy.
- ↳ **SEA STATE**. Following the *Douglas scale*. We must indicate the **height of the waves** (don't mistake with wind intensity!). With sea higher than 4 (1.25 m of wave) we consider sightings as without effort, because the probability of seen an animal behind the wave is considerably less than in front of it.
- ↳ **WIND**
 - **Direction**, just the main points (N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW).
 - **Speed** following *Beaufort scale*. We set up six levels, including 0 as no wind (sea like a mirror), and 5 or above, too strong to observe. Beside each number there's a tip to help identifying the right option according to the broken waves.

SIGHTINGS

Every time we see an animal or group of them, we register a **SIGHTING**.

To fill this part:

- ↳ **OBSERVED SPECIES**. If we recognize the species, **write** the common or scientific name (preferable). If we don't, just write the correspondent group (baleen whales, sperm whales, beaked whales, big odontocetes or dolphins). Those five groups are quite easy to distinguish and just by themselves, they can provide useful information.
- ↳ **TIME** (UTC/GMT, hh:mm, using 24 hours)



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- ↳ **LOCATION** (GPS coordinates in decimal degrees, otherwise, please indicate the right format!)
- ↳ **NUMBER**
 - The **number of sighted animals**. Sometimes it is easy, for example, baleen whales usually go in small groups (1 to 3 individuals), so easy to count! **Write it**. But sometimes, for example with dolphins, it's very difficult to count them, so we will **tick the most appropriate box** to have an idea, and if possible, write down our own opinion.
 - **Calves**. Write down if you see babies in the group. If you can distinguish between babies, juveniles and adults in the comments would be great!
- ↳ **BEHAVIOUR**. We set only four main different behaviours, even there can be a lot more. We will write down the behaviour we see at the beginning of the sighting, when we first see the animals. Any other not listed here can be described or written down in observations (e.g. mating, breaching, etc.).
 - **Resting**. When animals are swimming very slowly, sometimes even stopped, logging on the surface.
 - **Feeding**. Usually we can see some fish or birds around, for example with dolphins, chasing behaviours (like torpedoes) are easy to recognize. Usually there are splashes around too.
 - **Travelling**. When animals are swimming consistently in one direction, usually without stopping or breaking their trajectory.
 - **Socializing**. Jumping, touching each other, playing, showing off.
- ↳ **PHOTO**. If possible, photos will be very welcome! They will help us to identify or confirm the species. Easier to compare with catalogues or guides than real animals moving all the time. If they have quality enough, in some species can be very useful to identify each individual, like our footprints. Very useful for example with the back and dorsal fin of baleen whales, tails of sperm whales and humpback whales, and dorsal fins of bottlenose and Risso's dolphins.
- ↳ **OBSERVATIONS**. Any other information we would like to record. For example, if we see birds or fish around, or several species of cetaceans together; other behaviours (mating, suckling, breaching, etc.); presence of boats; ropes or nets entangled; special fin shapes; etc.

THANK YOU FOR COLLABORATING WITH US!!

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