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VESSEL-BASED SIGHTINGS RECORDING FORM

RECORD AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE, BUT REMEMBER THAT EVEN PARTIAL DATA MAY BE HELPFUL! CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY.

Date (dd/mm/yyy) ..... **Contact name / address** ..... **Phone** .....

E-mail: ..... **Boat name** ..... **Journey Description** .....

Sea State ..... **Swell Height** ..... **Visibility** ..... **Trip Start Time** ..... **GMT / BST End Time** ..... **Observer Height Above Sea Level (m)**

Field of View: 180° fwd; 90°L; 90°R; 360° (tick)

Ref. No.	TIME BST/GM	LOCATION (Latitude & longitude if possible)	SPECIES	CONF.	TOTAL NO.	NO. CALVES	NO. JUVES	BEARING ANIMAL	DIST. TO ANIMAL	BEHAVIOUR	REACTION	ANIMAL HEADING	ASSOC. SEABIRDS	OBSERV NAME

DATA DEFINITIONS: *Use categories provided where possible.*

Sea State: 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; 8 = long, high waves edges breaking, foam blows in streaks; 9 = high waves, sea begins to roll, dense foam streaks. **Swell Height:** Light = 0-1 m; Moderate = 1-2 m; Heavy = >2 m. **Visibility:** <1 km; 1-5 km; 6-10 km; >10 km.**Reference No.:** Number each sighting sequentially to allow for cross-reference with effort or additional notes. If a repeat sighting, use the same number as for the first sighting of the group. **Time**: 24-hour clock; circle BST or GMT. **Location:** Record latitude and longitude (deg., decimal min. preferred), 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). **Confidence:** Definite; Probable; Possible. **Total No.:** Give range if unsure of exact number. **Calves/Juveniles:** Estimate counts of different–sized animals relative to adult body size (calves up to 50% adult size, juveniles 50-75%). **Bearing:** Degrees (magnetic). **Distance to animal:** Metres. **Behaviour:** Surfacing; Normal Swim; Fast Swim; Blowing; Feeding; Leap/breaching; Tail slap; Spy-hop; Bow-ride; Rest/Milling; Aggression; Sexual. **Reaction:** POS (attracted to boat); NEG (avoided boat); NON (no response observed). **Animal heading:** Note general direction of movement, or whether direction is variable. **Seabirds:** Note seabirds closely associated with the animals; record species of bird, if known, and number of birds.

Please return to Sea Watch Foundation, Paragon House, Wellington Place, New Quay SA45 9NR or to your Regional Group Co-ordinator

For more info contact sightings@seawatchfoundation.org.uk or call 01545 561227 or visit www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk