

# Shorewatch Effort Data Sheet 2023



Shorewatch Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Shorewatch Observer(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Record Shorewatch Effort - use a different sheet at each site: (A WDC 'Shorewatch' should be conducted for 10 minutes, using 7 x 50 binoculars)

Tick here if entered online

Observer Initials	Date	SW Effort Time		Sea State	Visibility	Cetaceans present? Y or N	Othermarine creatures? Y or N	Feeding birds? Y or N	Number & type of vessels & creel buoys <i>Or circle to confirm none seen</i>	Notes	No. of people talked to
		Start	End								
<input type="checkbox"/>									No vessels seen		
<input type="checkbox"/>									No vessels seen		
<input type="checkbox"/>									No vessels seen		
<input type="checkbox"/>									No vessels seen		
<input type="checkbox"/>									No vessels seen		
<input type="checkbox"/>									No vessels seen		
<input type="checkbox"/>									No vessels seen		
<input type="checkbox"/>									No vessels seen		
<input type="checkbox"/>									No vessels seen		
<input type="checkbox"/>									No vessels seen		

Vessel categories: VLV (very large vessel), FVL (fishing vessel-large), FVS (fishing vessel-small), LM (large motor), SM (small motor), SV (sailing vessel), MSV (sailing vessel under motor), JS (jet ski), PK (paddle / kayak / row), C (creel buoys), O (other)

WDC Shorewatches should be conducted by trained observers for 10 minutes of effort. They should be conducted as planned or at random but not because cetaceans are known to be in the area. However, casual or opportunistic sightings made outside of Shorewatch effort may also be recorded under the 'Details of Cetacean Sightings' section on the flip side of this data sheet - please mark them as occurring outside of Shorewatch effort. Data will be used in an ongoing effort to monitor cetacean presence around the Scottish coast and to inform management and legislative decisions. For more information about WDC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation or our Shorewatch Programme, visit [www.whales.org/shorewatch](http://www.whales.org/shorewatch). Contact [shorewatch@whales.org](mailto:shorewatch@whales.org) / [data@shorewatch.org](mailto:data@shorewatch.org) or 01343 820 339 with questions. Please return this data sheet to Scottish Dolphin Centre, Spey Bay, Fochabers, Moray, IV32 7PJ.

# 2023 Cetacean Sighting Data Sheet

Details of Cetacean Sightings. Each sighting should be recorded on two lines. Use the first line to describe whether the sighting was made whilst on WDC Shorewatch effort. If no, record details about observer and location in the sighting notes section. Use the second line to record details about the time, location, species, numbers, and behaviour that you observed. Use as many details as possible to assist with validation.

Tick here if entered online

Date	Sighting Time		Bearing	Distance Reticules land or sky?	Distance estimate (meters)	Species ID cues used	Sighting Conf	No. of adults include unknown	No. of juv / calves	No. of neonates (new- borns)	Behaviour		Vessel interaction
	Start	End									direction of travel	circle as appropriate	
On Shorewatch Effort? Yes / No (If no, observer initials: _____) Sighting notes:													
<input type="checkbox"/>				land sky							active calm	travel stay	none interact disturb reported: police WDC
On Shorewatch Effort? Yes / No (If no, observer initials: _____) Sighting notes:													
<input type="checkbox"/>				land sky							active calm	travel stay	none interact disturb reported: police WDC
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<input type="checkbox"/>				land sky							active calm	travel stay	none interact disturb reported: police WDC
On Shorewatch Effort? Yes / No (If no, observer initials: _____) Sighting notes:													
<input type="checkbox"/>				land sky							active calm	travel stay	none interact disturb reported: police WDC
On Shorewatch Effort? Yes / No (If no, observer initials: _____) Sighting notes:													
<input type="checkbox"/>				land sky							active calm	travel stay	none interact disturb reported: police WDC

Think about useful identification cues: behaviour, colouration, location of fin, fin shape, head shape, blow, etc.

How many did you see and can you group them by age?

- Adults - full-sized creatures or if you are unsure about age.
- Juveniles / calves - smaller than adults, may still exhibit foetal folds, often in a group but independent from a specific adult.
- Neonates - less than half adult size, exhibiting foetal folds, sticks close to an adult, likely born recently and using area as nursery ground

Was there any interaction with vessels?

- interaction - no significant change in behaviour of animals OR animal chooses to approach the vessels
- disturbance - vessel approaches closely, changes speed and/or direction, stays more than 15 mins AND negative response by cetaceans
- reported - disturbance reported to the police and/or WDC