

MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTING



NOAA/NMFS/AFSC/NMML
 Platforms of Opportunity
 7600 Sand Point Way NE
 Seattle, WA 98115

Observer(s) _____ Vessel _____

year month day local time (24 hr. clock) +/- GMT

Y	R	M	O	D	A	7	8	9	10	+/-	11	12	13
1	2	3	4	5	6								

latitude N/S general location of vessel (optional)

14	15	16	17	18	19												

longitude E/W sighting conditions Beaufort +/- water temp.

						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	+/-						27	28	29	30	31
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	xint	good	fair	poor											

species (common and/or scientific name) **Please fill out a form for each species** confidence

_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	sure	likely	unsure

sighting cue

closest approach number sighted (best) number (minimum) number (maximum)

32	33	34	35	meters	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47							

For Office Use Only

observer _____

48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
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platform vis. species conf.

60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67
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sighting cue photos roll frames

68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
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behaviors, cues and interactions

79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
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behaviors, cues and interactions length multi

91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101
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Narrative

Make identifications only on specific features seen. Mention them here. Include body features, markings and coloration, associated organisms, elaborate on behaviors, etc. The most valuable sightings contain a good amount of detailed information.

Body Length Estimate

- < 3 m (< 10')
- 3-8 m (10-25')
- 8-16 m (25-50')
- 16-26 m (50-80')
- >26 m (>80')

Some common behaviors (circle these or add your own in narrative section)

Small cetaceans

- Bow riding
- Leaping entirely out of water
- Porpoising (swimming fast, body out of the water)
- Rooster-tailing (usually a Dall's porpoise cue)
- Slow rolling

Large cetaceans

- Blow visible from a distance
- Breaching
- Flipper slapping
- Group feeding
- Lob-tailing
- Spy-hopping
- Tail raised on dive
- Side wake riding
- Stern wake riding

Pinnipeds

- Jug handle (flippers in air)
- Porpoising (swimming fast, at least partially out of the water)
- Rafting
- Spooked from haulout
- Vocalizing

Fishing Interactions

- Contact with gear
- Contact with vessel
- Entangled in gear
- Feeding on discards
- Feeding from gear
- Following vessel while fishing
- Swimming near gear

Photos/Video (optional)

- photographs
- video

roll/tape # _____

frame(s) _____

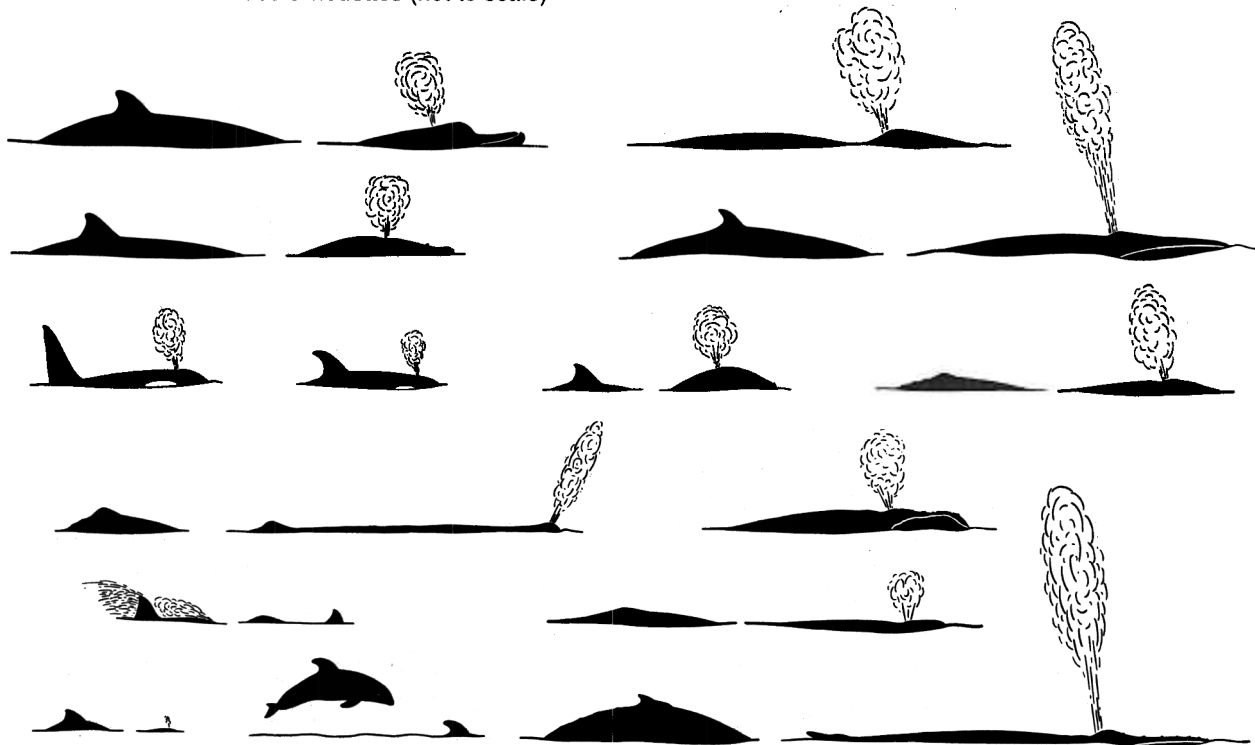
Check here if there was more than one species of marine mammal present at this sighting.

Sketches

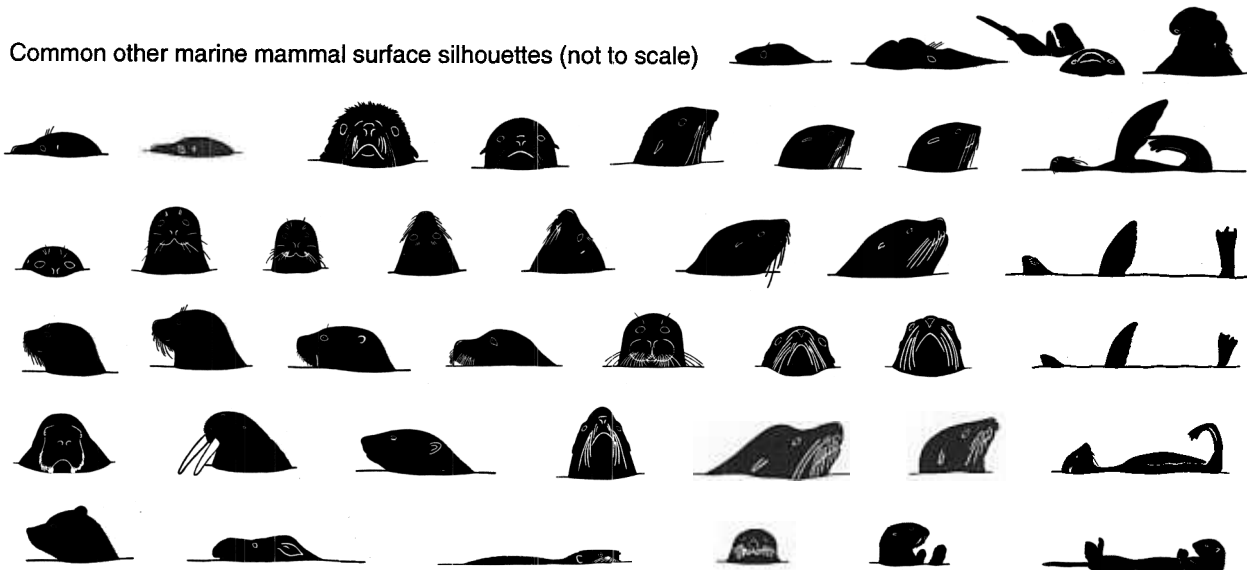
When possible, make a sketch noting pigmentation, anatomical features, scarring, posture, anatomical anomalies, group positioning, etc.

These are silhouettes of most genera of marine mammals known to occur in and around North America. Subtleties exist between closely related genera. Care should be taken in identifying species. Assessing one's level of confidence with copious notes and observations is more valuable than a brief misidentification. **Please circle appropriate silhouette(s).**

Common cetacea surface silhouettes (not to scale)



Common other marine mammal surface silhouettes (not to scale)



BEAUFORT SCALE (Sea Condition)		wind	wave height
0	glassy, calm	0, 1 kts	calm
1	light ripple	1 < 4 kts	light air 1/4'
2	small wavelets	4 < 7 kts	light breeze 1/2'
3	scattered whitecaps	7 < 11 kts	gentle breeze 2'
4	small waves, frequent whitecaps	11 < 17 kts	moderate breeze 4'
5	moderate waves, many whitecap	17 < 22 kts	fresh breeze 6'
6	all whitecaps, some spray	22 < 28 kts	strong breeze 10'
7	breaking waves, spindrift	28 < 34 kts	near gale 14'
8	medium high waves, foamy streaks	34 < 41 kts	gale 18'
9	high waves, dense foamy streaks	41 < 48 kts	strong gale 22'
10-12	not meaningful (time to go home)		