



2010 Master Datasheet and Vessel Tracking Log with Entry Guides



part of 2010 Gray Whales Count, Survey Report © Gray Whales Count, 2013,
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Guide to Codes for Master Datasheet

Weather + Sea Conditions

Quality	
E	Excellent -Min Vis 3 nm
G	Good -Min Vis 2 nm
F	Fair -Min Vis 1.7 nm
P	Poor

Note: Just because you can see 3 nm does not make it Excellent, etc.

Beaufort Scale

0	Sea like a mirror; glossy, no sparkles in sun; sometimes like ice (less than 1 knot)
1	Ripples with the appearance of scales are formed; like sand paper; matte, darker vs. zero-Beaufort gloss, lighter; sparkles in sun (1 - 3 knots)
2	Small wavelets are becoming more articulated. Crests have a glassy appearance: no whitecaps. (4 - 6 knots)
3	First whitecaps, large wavelets; foam crests begin to appear, but are widely scattered. Mostly dots. (7 - 10 knots)
4	Small waves with more frequent whitecaps - always apparent - but waves settle instead of breaking; foam along top edge; dots + dashes, waves random, not yet organized (11 - 16 knots)
5	Moderate waves begin to break with more whitecaps. Becoming organized, lining up (17 - 21 knots)
<i>Suspend effort. At this point, it is very difficult to see animals.</i>	
6	Many whitecaps all around with larger waves forming and breaking. Much foam along lines of waves. (22 - 27 knots)

Horizon - Clarity

S	Sharp, very clear
F	Fuzzy - haze and/or heat waves
NV	Not Visible - rain, fog, or heavy haze - in this condition, not able to use reticle scale

Visibility - Distance in nautical miles (nm)

3	Equal to or greater than 3 nm (<.1 reticles)
2	Just beyond Holly: Between 2 and 3 nm (.2 to .1 reticles)
1.7	At Holly or Campus Point (.25 reticles)
1	Estimate (horizon likely not distinguishable)
<1	Estimate (horizon likely not distinguishable)

Code

B	Begin Count
W	Weather + Sea condition update
S	Sighting (Er northbound only)
SC	Sighting (all other cetaceans, incl Er south)
SV	Sighting Vessels
SO	Sighting Sea Otters
SP	Sighting Pinnipeds (Harbor seals [Pv] + rare [Ma; Cu])
>	Continues sighting (same number)
TO	Time Out: Suspend survey effort
TI	Time In: Resume survey effort
T	Terminate: End of survey for day

Cue (what did you see first?)

1	Blow
2	Body
3	Breach (leap)
4	Splash
<i>Note if you saw marine mammal because of birds, a tip from passerby, whale watching boat, or other</i>	

Direction of Travel

N	North ↓ (towards mainland)
S	South ↑ (towards islands)
E	East ← (towards Santa Barbara)
W	West → (towards Point Conception)
0	Not traveling, still

Behaviors

Whales		Dolphins		Sea otters		Pinnipeds	
				30	with tags (note color + foot)	50	on sand
1	Slow travel	21	Slow travel	31	swimming	51	Slow travel
2	Moderate travel	22	Moderate travel	32	Interacting (explain)	52	Moderate travel
3	Fast travel	23	Fast travel	33	Grooming	53	Fast travel
4	Spyhop	24	with Er	34	with gull(s)	54	with Er
5	Rolling	25	Foraging	35	Diving	55	Dive
6	Breach	26	Leap	36	in kelp	56	in kelp
7	Fluke	27	Chorus line	37	in open water	57	in open water
8	Bubbles seen	28	Parade line	38	in surf zone	58	in surf zone
9	Milling	29	Milling	39	on back, feeding (what?)	59	Milling
10	Pec slap			40	on back, resting		
11	Tail lob						
0	Not traveling, still	0	Not traveling, still	0	Not traveling, still	0	Not traveling, still

Species

(Er)	Gray whale (northbound)	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i> , p 204
Er	Gray whale (southbound)	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i> , p 204
Tt	Bottlenose dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> , p 358
El	Sea otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i> p 42
Pv	Harbor seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i> , p 118
Mn	Humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> , p 208
ULW	unidentified large whale	
UC	unidentified cetacean	
UD	unidentified dolphin	
D sp	Common dolphin species	<i>Delphinus</i> species not determined
Dc	Common dolphin, Long-beaked	<i>Delphinus capensis</i> , p 392
Dd	Common dolphin, Short-beaked	<i>Delphinus delphis</i> , p 388
Lo	Pacific white-sided dolphin (Lags)	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i> , p 402
Oo	Killer whale (Orca)	<i>Orcinus orca</i> , p 436

Page numbers refer to Marine Mammals of the World. Consult for rarer species.

Whale Route past Holly		Whale Route past Buoys	
I	Inside (between shore + Holly)	I	Inside (between shore + buoys)
O	Outside (beyond Holly)	O	Outside (beyond buoys)
		T	Through the buoys
nd	not determined	nd	not determined

Usually last entry of tracking northbound gray whales

