



Coral Triangle Oceanic Cetacean Program - Sighting Form

Vessel/Observer:

Sheet No:

Date	Time	Lat (or Area)	Long (or Area)	Species*	Number*	Distance* (m)	Record*	Comments*

Data Specifications:

Cetaceans are highly sensitive to visual and acoustic disturbances. All observations should be made discretely. Direct approaches and sudden changes in vessel speed and direction are to be avoided. An observation distance of 50m or more is recommended.

Species: Please record the *species* identification (ID) of all cetaceans sighted. If ID is uncertain then refer to a generic name (e.g."dolphins").

Number: The estimation of the total number of *individual* cetaceans in the pod, as seen on the surface at one time.

Distance: Note the estimated *distance* of cetaceans sighted (e.g. bowriding, 500m) and their travel *direction* (e.g.N, SE) when first sighted.

Record: Whenever possible obtain ID photographs or video footage of cetaceans encountered. Please note the frame number/video counter.

Comments: Include minimal distance, sightings of newborn calves, resting/active feeding/socialising/aerials, signs of disturbance, possible threats,