How to fill out the Dominica Sperm Whale Health Initiative Sighting Datasheet

Date and **Time**: Use the date you see the whale and the time you saw it

GPS Latitude and **Longitude**: Ask the boat captain for this information and enter it in - punctuation is important to include as it's seen on the GPS unit. Alternatively, you can go on Google maps if you have cell reception and tap and hold on the blue dot of where you are located on the map. The GPS point will appear in the white text box at the TOP of the screen.

Data Collector/Photographer: Write in your name

Boat Name: Write in the boat's name

How many other boats?: Count how many other boats were with the whales when you were recording the sighting. This should be boats within about 100m (300ft) of the whales. If you don't know exactly, use a range (ie. 6-8 boats)

Were photos or videos taken? Circle YES or NO. Send us the photos!

Contact email or phone: Provide a way for us to contact you (if needed) for more information about the sighting or to share photos. We don't always contact the whale spotters!

Total # of sperm whales: How many total sperm whales were present at this sighting?

How many calves? How many of the total sperm whale count that you provided were calves?

List of Known Whale ID (Flukebook): If your captain has the latest copy of a Flukebook on the boat, you can look at the fluke photos in the book and compare them to a photo of your own from the sighting. Keep the photo of the whale fluke that you took, because we'd like to have that match in our records! Only fill out this area if you know the whale from the book and have the photo match.

Any wounds, scars, parasites, entanglements or abnormal skin conditions? (See **Lesions/Wounds Guide**) Circle YES or NO based on what you saw above or in the water. We'd love to see any photos as well!

Describe the wound or skin condition, location on the body and whale identification: Describe any information about how a wound or the skin area looked (color, size, etc.) and where it was seen on the body. Include information on multiple areas if seen throughout the body. Describe if it was seen on multiple whales or just one. Also mention which whale it was, if the fluke matches a known whale in Flukebook.

Any emaciated/skinny whale? (See **Lesions/Wounds Guide**) Sperm whales can have a large looking hump at the edge of the back of their skull where it drops off to their back. This is a sign of a skinny whale. Another sign is if the backbone is very prominent and the sides of the top of their body are sunken in-looking. A skinny sperm whale may also seem much more wrinkly or puckered compared to other whales. Circle Yes or No.

Whale ID: If you know the whale's ID please list it.

Behavior of the whales: (see **Behavior Guide**) Check any boxes for behaviors you saw. Sperm whales in Dominica are often diving, logging or resting at the surface or traveling to another location while at the surface. You may also see them nursing a calf, jumping or partially jumping out of the water (aerials), popping just their head out of the water straight up and then straight down (spyhopping), interacting with other species of whales or dolphins (or birds, large fish, turtles, etc), playing with food pieces at the surface, interacting with an adult male, traveling or tail slapping (bringing just their tail above the water and slapping it down hard on the surface of the water).

Are there other animals with the sperm whales? (see **Species Guide**) List what other species you saw and approximately how many of those animals you saw with the sperm whales.

******Take a picture of the Datasheet and send the datasheet photos and any whale, lesion or other photos from the sighting to:**

Wendy Marks on What's App number +1 808-987-8455 or via text (What's App preferred!) to have the data and photos entered into the WatchSpotter App and be counted towards the Dominica Sperm Whale Health Initiative Sightings Data!

Thanks for your Support!