

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary's Ocean Count
Notice of Caution

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) annually conducts the Sanctuary Ocean Count event. This event requires the participation of volunteers from the general public. Individuals who have registered online or with representatives of the HIHWNMS to participate in the Ocean Count event are considered volunteers of the HIHWNMS for this event.

While performing duties in the capacity as a HIHWNMS volunteer, you will be covered for liability protection only while performing tasks directly specified in the Scope of Work for the Ocean Count event.

The approved tasks in the Scope of Work for this project include:

1. Collect data for the Behavior Sheet as instructed by your Site Leader(s).
2. Collect data for the Site Map Sheet as instructed by your Site Leader(s).
3. Follow all other instructions provided by your Site Leader(s).

Please be cautious when participating in the Sanctuary Ocean Count. Be aware that weather conditions are variable and may become severe, at which time the Site Leader has approval to call off the Ocean Count for that day. Be aware of the natural conditions and surrounding environment at your site. Some sites are at high elevations with steep cliffs, or are low-lying with dangerous surf or slippery rocks. At no time while conducting the Sanctuary Ocean Count, should volunteers enter the water or place themselves in unsafe conditions.

We appreciate your participation as a volunteer in this humpback whale monitoring event. We hope that this will be a safe and enjoyable day for everyone.

Updated 1/15/20

SANCTUARY OCEAN COUNT

BEHAVIOR SHEET INSTRUCTIONS

The Behavior Sheet is to be completed by ALL general volunteers.

It is advisable that volunteers work in pairs, one monitoring whales and calling behaviors, the other writing them down. Volunteers can exchange tasks. This activity will be conducted in half-hour increments continuously from 0800 - 1200.

1. Start and stop observations precisely at the specified times on the data sheet.
2. Monitor all the whales that can be seen from your position.
3. The data sheet identifies various humpback whale behaviors. Each time a behavior is witnessed, mark the appropriate column on the data sheet with a bar. You may also describe what is happening in the comments section. Use additional sheets if necessary. Record the time before the description. At the end of each 30-minute period, total the bars under each behavior and circle that number. If you take a break please note your absence rather than recording a "0" count.
4. Complete the visibility chart on the back of the Behavior Sheet for each time period.

How to fill in columns on the data sheet:

- **NUMBER OF ADULTS** - Write in the total number of animals that appear to be adults. The only way to estimate this is by noting animal size, which is usually apparent by the size of the blow.
- **NUMBER OF CALVES** - This is often difficult to estimate. If you are not able to establish the number of calves, indicate if calves were present (P) or absent (A).
- **BREACH** - Record the number of times this behavior occurs. A breach occurs when the whale breaks clear of the water with its full body and returns to the water with a large splash.
- **SLAP** - Record the number of times this behavior occurs. Here, a whale slaps its tail, head, pectoral fin or peduncle on the water creating small splashes, but the main body of the animal remains underwater.
- **BLOW** - Record the number of times this behavior occurs. A blow occurs when you see a spout (the whale is taking a breath). Sometimes you may not see a blow, but the whale surfaces and then dives again.
- **DIVE** - Record the number of times this behavior occurs. In this behavior, the whale arches its back upward out of the water. The tail may or may not be seen. After the dive, the whale will not be seen for some time.

Some general terms to use in the comment section:

- **TRAVELING** - A continuous directional movement with frequent surface intervals.
- **SURFACE ACTIVE** - Whale is breaching, tail or fluke slapping, spy-hopping.
- **NURSING** - Calf's rostrum is next to the mother's body. Typically the mother is motionless.
- **MILLING/LOGGING** - Whales remain at the surface for an extended period of time - like a log floating on the surface.

SANCTUARY OCEAN COUNT

TYPICAL HUMPBACK WHALE BEHAVIORS

Blow



On average, adult humpbacks surface to breathe every 10-15 minutes, but can remain submerged for as long as 45 minutes. Calves must rise to the surface every 3-5 minutes.

Head Rise or Spy Hop



A whale rises vertically toward the surface, with its head out of the water. Some believe this behavior allows the whale to look at activity going on above the surface.

Tail Slap



A humpback raises its tail flukes out of the water and slaps them forcefully on the surface of the water. This behavior is often repetitive and may serve as a warning.

Pec Slap



Humpbacks will slap the water's surface with one or both fins simultaneously. The slapping of fins may serve as a communication signal to other whales.

Head Slap



A competitive display in which the humpback whale lunges forward with its head raised above the water.

Peduncle Slap



An energetic display where the whale throws its tail out of the water and in the process, slaps its peduncle on the surface.

Dive



A humpback arches its back upward out of the water. The tail may or may not be seen. The whale will not be seen for some time.

Breach



An acrobatic display where the humpback uses its tail to launch itself out of the water then lands back on the surface with a splash.

SANCTUARY OCEAN COUNT BEHAVIOR SAMPLE SHEET

Name: Henry Humpback

Island: O'ahu

Date: January 25, 2020

Site # / Name: #19 / Halona Blowhole

Start Time: 8:00am

End Time: 12:00pm

Observe humpback whale activity at your site:

Time	Number of Adults	Number of Calves	Breach	Slap (Pectoral fin, Fluke, Head)	Blow	Dive
0800-0830	/ (1)	(0)	/ (1)	(0)	// (2)	(0)
0831-0900	/// (3)	/ (1)	(0)	/ (1)	//// (4)	/ (1)
0901-0930	// (2)	/ (1)	// (2)	(0)	/// (3)	(0)
0931-1000	/ (1)	(0)	(0)	(0)	/ (1)	(0)
1001-1030	//// (4)	/ (1)	/// (3)	/ (1)	## / (6)	(0)
1031-1100	// (2)	(0)	(0)	// (2)	// (2)	// (2)
1101-1130	## / (6)	// (2)	//// (4)	/// (3)	## // (7)	(0)
1131-1200	Rained Out					

SANCTUARY OCEAN COUNT

BEHAVIOR SAMPLE SHEET

Visibility (use the scheme provided below to summarize visibility status for each hour)

CONTINUE WITH YOUR COMMENTS HERE

1. 0800-0900

Fog: Y N Heavy Medium <u>Light</u>	Rain: Y <u>N</u> Heavy Medium Light	Haze: Y <u>N</u> Heavy Medium Light	Wind: Y <u>N</u> Strong Medium Light
Foam: Y <u>N</u> Lots Some None	Swell: <u>Y</u> N High <u>Medium</u> Small/None	Glare: <u>Y</u> N _____ %	Visibility Code _____ <small>(do not write in here – code will be decided by data analyst)</small>

2. 0901-1000

Fog: <u>Y</u> N Heavy Medium Light	Rain: Y <u>N</u> Heavy Medium Light	Haze: Y <u>N</u> Heavy Medium Light	Wind: Y <u>N</u> Strong Medium Light
Foam: Y <u>N</u> Lots Some None	Swell: <u>Y</u> N High Medium <u>Small/None</u>	Glare: <u>Y</u> N _____ 15 %	Visibility Code _____ <small>(do not write in here – code will be decided by data analyst)</small>

3. 1001-1100

Fog: Y <u>N</u> Heavy Medium Light	Rain: Y <u>N</u> Heavy Medium Light	Haze: Y <u>N</u> Heavy Medium Light	Wind: Y <u>N</u> Strong Medium Light
Foam: Y <u>N</u> Lots Some None	Swell: <u>Y</u> N High Medium <u>Small/None</u>	Glare: Y <u>N</u> _____ %	Visibility Code _____ <small>(do not write in here – code will be decided by data analyst)</small>

4. 1101-1200

Fog: Y <u>N</u> Heavy Medium Light	Rain: <u>Y</u> N Heavy <u>Medium</u> Light	Haze: Y <u>N</u> Heavy Medium Light	Wind: <u>Y</u> N Strong <u>Medium</u> Light
Foam: Y <u>N</u> Lots Some None	Swell: <u>Y</u> N High Medium <u>Small/None</u>	Glare: Y <u>N</u> _____ %	Visibility Code _____ <small>(do not write in here – code will be decided by data analyst)</small>

Describe the behavior if none of the listed behaviors are occurring (Are the whales moving out of the area? Are they diving for long periods of time?):

All whales in the area generally moved through for the duration of the observations. On one occasion an escort from a 3 whale group moved to another group. Whitecaps, medium swell and glare earlier in the morning made observations a bit more difficult.

Please return your completed form to your site leader at the end of the event.

SANCTUARY OCEAN COUNT

CONTACT INFORMATION

(Updated 2019)

For Reporting Violations, Strandings, or Other Incidents

TO REPORT A VIOLATION, STRANDED OR INJURED MARINE ANIMAL:

Includes stranded/injured sea turtles, monk seals, dolphins, and whales:

- **NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Hotline:**
 - Email written reports, video, and photos to NOAA Fisheries: RespectWildlife@noaa.gov
 - **Immediately call/report possible illegal or suspicious activity*
 - Phone: (800) 853-1964
 - * THIS IS THE CONTACT YOU CALL FOR ANY VIOLATIONS!
- **Hawai'i Statewide Marine Animal Stranding, Entanglement, and Reporting Hotline:**
 - 1-888-256-9840
- **Hawai'i DLNR Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) Hotline:**
 - DLNRTip app for iPhone or Android mobile devices:
 - <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/docare/>
 - Phone: (808) 643-DLNR (808-643-3567)

TO REPORT MONK SEAL SIGHTINGS:

- Email pifsc.monksealsighting@noaa.gov or
- Call your island's Marine Mammal Response Coordinator:
 - Island of Hawai'i: (808) 987-0765
 - Kaua'i: (808) 651-7668
 - Maui/Lāna'i: (808) 292-2372
 - Moloka'i: (808) 553-5555
 - O'ahu: (808) 220-7802

TO REPORT OIL OR HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILLS:

- National Response Center: **1-800-424-8802**