



We are interested in all of your whale sightings, but are particularly keen on hearing about minkes (dwarf minke whale pictured above left). Please fill out this sheet as best you can to help our sightings records.

Part A: Fill in immediately when whales are seen:

1. Time of initial sighting:..... 2. Date: _____ / _____ / 2011
3. Location: Coordinates at start: Lat:.....(S) Long:.....(E)
4. Approx. distance from vessel when first sighted: 5. Time of first approach (to within 30m)

Part B: Fill in immediately after end of encounter:

6. Time of last sighting:..... 7. Vessel:..... 8. Your name:
9. Coordinates at end (if drifting/steaming): Lat:..... (S) Long:.....(E)
10. How did the encounter end? (please tick one) ... [] Whale(s) left the boat [] Boat left the whale(s)

Part C. Fill in at end of encounter:

11. Type of whale: (please circle one) Minke / Humpback / Other:.....
12. Number of whales: Certain / Approx... If approximate, please provide a range, with a minimum estimate (the most whales seen at one time) and a maximum estimate (number of different whales you think may have been present throughout the encounter).
13. Estimated size(s): (No. of whales): more than 6m: # _____; 4m-6m: # _____; less than 4m: # _____
14. Any calves? (2011 calf will be < 1/2 size of mother, in close proximity to her & breathing more often): # _____
15. Vessel status when whale(s) first sighted: (please circle one) Anchored / Moored / Steaming / Drifting
16. Did the vessel status change during the encounter? (Please explain and give times; e.g. "dropped mooring to drift at 15:35")
17. Distance drifted during encounter: naut. miles 18. Average wind speed: knots
19. Average wave height: metres 20. Underwater visibility metres
21. Name of nearest reef or dive site:..... 22. Distance to that reef/site:.....
23. Closest approach distance by whale(s) (metres from boat): 24. Rope used?: Y / N (please circle one)
25. Maximum number of divers in at one time: Using snorkel: Using SCUBA:
26. Brief description of encounter (e.g. movement of whales, swimmers, etc; use back of page if necessary):
27. Were any of the following behaviours observed? (Tick where appropriate and write number of times observed)
28. Description of any significant markings/ scars on the whales (use back of page if necessary):
29. Photos and/or video available : Y / N 30. Name of photo/videographer :
31. Your contact details / vessel stamp:
Address & Telephone:.....
Email:.....

Please return completed forms and copies of any photos/video to the Minke Whale Project:
c/- Dr Alastair Birtles (Minke Whale Project Leader), Tourism, School of Business, James Cook University, Townsville QLD 4811.
Ph: (07) 4781 4736 Fax: (07) 4781 4019 Email: Alastair.Birtles@jcu.edu.au