

# 2018 Guide to Codes for Master Datasheet

## Weather + Sea Conditions

Q	Quality	Con	Contrast
E	Excellent • Min Vis 3 nm		
G	Good • Min Vis 2 nm	G	Good (sharp, clear)
F	Fair • Min Vis 1.7 nm	F	Fair (not-so-good, haze)
P	Poor	P	Poor (poor light, dark, and/or haze, or fog)

CC	Cloud Cover
	Estimate percent coverage (20% increments) over ocean

B	Beaufort Scale (priority where whales are coming from)
0	Sea like a mirror; glossy, no sparkles in sun path; sometimes sea looks 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) <b>Off-Effort (Time Out)</b>
6	Many whitecaps all around with larger waves forming and breaking. Much foam along lines of waves. (22 - 27 knots)

B-mix	Beaufort Scale numbers in mix of wind on water surface

Hrzn Clr	Horizon Clarity
S	Sharp, distinct, very clear (usually, Visibility 3 nm)
F	Fuzzy: haze, soft horizon (typical marine condition; Visibility up to 3 nm)
In	Indeterminate - VERY Fuzzy - haze, may be heat waves, distortions
NV	Not Visible: rain, fog, or heavy haze In this condition, not able to use reticle scale

Vis	Visibility
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)
1.5	Just inside Holly (Horizon Clarity In or NV)
1	Estimate (Horizon Clarity In or NV)
<1	Estimate (Horizon Clarity In or NV)

## Animal + Vessel Sightings

Code	Description
B	Begin Count
W	Weather + Sea condition update
S	Sighting (Er) only
SW	Sighting all other Whales, including Er (southbound)
SD	Sighting all Dolphin species
SO	Sighting Sea Otters
SP	Sighting Pinnipeds, rarely California Sea lion (Zc)
V	Sighting vessels
>	Continuation of sighting (same number)
TO	Time Out: Suspend survey effort
TI	Time In: Resume survey effort
T	Terminate: End of survey for day

Saw	Description
1	Blow
2	Body
3	Leap (dolphin)
4	Splash
6	Breach (whale)
O	other

Dir	Direction of Travel
N	North ↓ (towards mainland)
S	South ↑ (towards islands)
E	East ← (towards Santa Barbara)
W	West → (towards Pt Conception)
O	Circling
∅	Still

Env	Environment
OO	Open Ocean
K	Kelp Area
Z	Surf Zone
X	On Shore
A	In Air



Behaviors				
Behaviors + Attributes + Place				
Whales	Dolphins	Sea otters	Pinnipeds	
1 Speed slow	21 Speed slow	41 swimming	61	Swimming
2 Speed moderate	22 Speed moderate	42 Diving	62	Diving
3 Speed fast	23 Speed fast	43 Interacting (explain)		
4 Traveling	24 Traveling	44 Grooming		
5 Foraging	25 Foraging	45 on back, feeding (what?)	65	Foraging
6 Breach	26 Leap	46 on back, resting	66	in large group
7 Fluke	27 Chorus line	47 in kelp	67	in kelp
8 Bubbles blast	28 Parade line	48 in open water	68	in open water
9 Pec slap	29 Tail slap	49 in surf zone	69	in surf zone
10 Tail lob	30 Bowriding	50 with tags (note color + foot)	70	on shore
11 Spyhop	31 in kelp	51 with gull(s)	71	Resting, Vertical
12 Rolling	32 in surf zone		72	Resting, Horizontal
13 Sharking	33 with (Er)		73	with (Er)
			74	Rescue Attempt
O Circling	O Circling	O Circling	O	Circling
∅ Still	∅ Still	∅ Still	∅	Still

Vessel Classifications on back of clipboard

SP	Species
<b>Whales</b>	
(Er)	Gray whale (northbound) <i>Eschrichtius robustus</i> , p 204
Er	Gray whale (southbound) <i>Eschrichtius robustus</i> , p 204
Mn	Humpback whale <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> , p 208
Bm	Blue whale <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i> , p 234
ULW	unidentified large whale
<b>Dolphins</b>	
Tt	Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> , p 358
D sp	Common dolphin species <i>Delphinus</i> species not determined
Lo	Pacific White-sided dolphin (Lag) <i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i> , p 402
Oo	Killer whale (Orca) <i>Orcinus orca</i> , p 436
UD	unidentified dolphin
<b>Sea otters</b>	
EI	Sea otter <i>Enhydra lutris</i> p 42
<b>Pinnipeds</b>	
Pv	Harbor seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i> , p 118
Ma	Northern Elephant seal <i>Mirounga angustirostris</i> , p 162
Cu	Northern Fur seal <i>Callorhinus ursinus</i> , p
Zc	California Sea lion <i>Zalophus Californianus</i> , p 90
UP	unidentified pinniped

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

