

Counting Station: \_\_\_\_\_



<b>Time</b>	<b>Weather</b> (temp, precipitation, wind)	<b>Dolphin Tally</b>	<b>Calf Tally</b>	<b>Behavioral Notes</b> (traveling, splashing, jumping, feeding)
9:30-10:00 am		Min: _____ Max: _____ Best: _____		
10:30-11:00 am		Min: _____ Max: _____ Best: _____		
11:30-12:00 am		Min: _____ Max: _____ Best: _____		

### **What types of behaviors might I see?**

Traveling: An animal moving in the same direction of travel without turning or stopping.

Splashing: Splashing can indicate feeding, socializing, or mating.

Feeding: Animals seen circling together, staying in one place, tail splashing, torpedoing, or strand feeding could be signs of feeding.

Resting: An animal staying at the surface without much movement could be an animal resting at the surface.

Mating: Multiple dolphins pushing each other and rolling around in the water.

Aerial behavior: Dolphin(s) jumping out of water and landing headfirst or on their sides. Representative of a variety of behaviors!

### **Do I still record data if I don't see any dolphins?**

Yes. We need you to record when dolphins are present and also when they are absent. Negative data (when dolphins are not present) is really important to the project as it allows us to say something about how often dolphins are seen; making the positive data (when dolphins are seen) more valuable. Understanding which stations have the highest dolphin sighting will also help us understand "hotspots" for the dolphins which may indicate feeding, resting or mating areas for the dolphins. Please submit your data even if you saw zero dolphins.

### **What is Min, Max and Best?**

These criteria allow flexibility in your count, taking into account it is sometimes hard to get an exact number of dolphins. Min: this is the minimum number of dolphins you saw over 30 minutes. The max gives you the flexibility if you're not sure you saw 5 or 6 (min: 5, max: 6). The best is your best guess and total tally for the 30 minutes. Think about it like this: "I saw at least X (min), but I might have seen X+ (max). Do your best!

### **How do I count?**

Each count will last 30 minutes. Each station will start counting promptly on the half hour (9:30-10, 10:30-11, and 11:30-12pm). Do not use binoculars during your count. During the count, you'll scan the horizon from left to right looking for dolphins. Once an animal(s) is seen we'll count the number of animals and any calves present. We'll ask one person to follow this animal(s) as long as they can to help reduce double counting the same animal(s). If new animal(s) appear we will add them to the tally and continue to follow during the duration of the count. Tally all dolphins over the 30 minutes. Include calves in your total count but record them separately. At the end of the 30 minutes, you'll need to record your total count for the 30 minutes. When submitting your data in the Dolphin Count app, submit one sighting for each count for your entire group. Each site should have a total of 3 sightings at the end of the day.

If you cannot access the app to submit your data, please email a copy of your data sheet to [info@lmmn.org](mailto:info@lmmn.org). Once the data is compiled, we'll send out a report of the day's sightings.