

ORCA Marine Mammal Surveyor Course Agenda

09:30 Introduction to ORCA & marine mammals – why what we do is important!

Please ensure you are logged into the Zoom meeting on time, so that we can start promptly. During this session, we will introduce the course trainers and outline the course content for the day. We will also introduce ORCA's charitable aims, objectives and work areas, and highlight the impact of ORCA's Marine Mammal Surveyor data to date.

10:00 Introduction to ORCA's Survey Protocol

An introduction to effort-based surveying for whales, dolphins and porpoises. We will explore the reasons why we collect our data in a certain way. We will introduce the different volunteer roles and key responsibilities.

10:30 ORCA Survey Protocol: Effort & Weather

In this lecture, we will go into depth about how to collect effort-based data when on a survey using the *ORCA Effort and Weather* form step-by-step. We will also stress the importance of accurate data collection to ensure that the data can best inform cetacean conservation.

11:30 ORCA Survey Protocol: Sightings & Survey Equipment

We will now go through the *ORCA Sightings* form step-by-step, ensuring that you are confident recording the cetaceans that you have sighted; the species, group size, number of calves and behaviours. We will also teach you how to use the ORCA survey equipment.

12:30 An ORCA Survey Experience: Day Sailing

A short recollection of a one-day sailing survey, to introduce what it's like going on an ORCA MMS survey.

12:45 Lunch break

13:15 Cetacean Identification Workshop

To get us enthused and excited about this afternoon's sessions, let's test our identification skills and refresh our memory of how to identify marine mammals at sea.

13:45 Getting to Grips With Line-Transect & Distance Sampling Surveys

Now it's time for the science! In this lecture we will very simply look at why we collect data in a certain way, to a certain protocol, and we will discuss why it's so important to collect accurate data so that we can use our survey data to protect amazing whales, dolphins and porpoises for the future.

14:00 Virtual Survey Workshop

Unfortunately, we can't take you out to sea today but during this workshop we will practise surveying skills and how to record sightings.

14:30 An ORCA Survey Experience: Overnight Sailing

A recollection of an overnight survey, to further explain the survey process.

15:00 Survey Logistics

To prepare you for the next steps in your Marine Mammal Surveyor journey, we will go through the processes behind applying for surveys.



15:45 Marine Mammal Surveyor Skills

In this session, we will go through the key skills you need as a team to take part in a survey successfully. Do you have what it takes to become a Marine Mammal Surveyor? We will also outline the ORCA progression scheme.

16:20 Question & Answer Session

We have scheduled a 10-minute question and answer session at the end of the day to address any questions that you might have about becoming an ORCA Marine Mammal Surveyor.

16:30 Summary & End of Course