

# ORCA Marine Mammal Surveyor Course Agenda

Please note that the timings indicated below are an estimate and are subject to change throughout the day. As well as a lunch break, a number of short comfort breaks will be scheduled throughout the day.

## **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 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.

## **10:15 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 and will introduce the different volunteer roles and key responsibilities.

## **10:50 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. The importance of accurate data collection to ensure that the data can best inform cetacean conservation will be explained.

## **11:40 ORCA Survey Protocol: Sightings & Survey Equipment**

We will now go through the *ORCA Sightings* form step-by-step, ensuring 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 equipment provided for you on your ORCA survey.

## **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 survey.

## **13:00 Lunch break**

## **13:45 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.

## **14:15 Getting to Grips With Line-Transect & Distance Sampling Surveys**

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

## **15:00 Virtual Survey Workshop**

Unfortunately, we can't take you out to sea today but during this interactive workshop we will practise surveying skills and how to record sightings, putting what you have learned in the morning sessions into practice.

## **15:30 An ORCA Survey Experience: Overnight Sailing**

A recollection of an overnight survey, to further explain the survey process and showcase the various length surveys.

## **15:40 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.

## **16:00 Marine Mammal Surveyor Skills**

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

## **16:20 Course Summary & Q&A 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 End of Course**