

# MARINE WILDLIFE SIGHTING REPORT FORM

IF GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES OF THE SIGHTING CANNOT BE PROVIDED, THEN THIS REPORT FORM MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, SATELLITE IMAGE, OR TOPOGRAPHIC MAP WITH THE LOCATION PRECISELY MARKED. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY. \*Please see other side for further information on obtaining a map.

### **General Information**

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Species' Common Name \_\_\_\_\_ Scientific Name (If known) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Where did the sighting take place?**

Coordinates & Coordinate System (NJ State Plane, UTM w/ zone #, etc.)  
(attach a map to this form with sighting location, if coordinates are unavailable) \_\_\_\_\_

Directions to location with landmarks, which will enable the future relocation of the site where the species was sighted:

Describe habitat at the point of sighting and habitat in the general area of the sighting location.

Can you describe any immediate or future plans to develop or disturb the area?  Yes  No  
If so, please describe.

### **Locational Accuracy**

1. If coordinates are based on GPS figures, what was the accuracy of the GPS unit when these coordinates were taken?  
\_\_\_\_\_meters \_\_\_\_\_feet \_\_\_\_\_miles
2. If coordinates are unavailable, is your depiction of the sighting location on the topographic map or aerial photo within 6m (20ft) of the animal's actual location?  Yes  No (if no, answer question 3 below)
3. Your mapping is accurate to within \_\_\_\_\_meters \_\_\_\_\_feet \_\_\_\_\_miles of the actual location.

### **What was observed?**

How was this species' identification made? (ex. Sighting, Stranding, Capture, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of this sighting (ex. August 20, 2004, 10:30am) \_\_\_\_\_

How frequently has this species been sighted at this location and over how long a period of time? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of individuals sighted: Adult \_\_\_\_\_ Immature \_\_\_\_\_ Unknown/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe sighting and activity observed (ex. Swimming, Feeding, Breaching, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Describe physical features, including size, that identify the sighted animal as the species you are reporting.

Were photos taken?  Yes  No      Was video recorded?  Yes  No

**(PHOTOS/ VIDEO ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED IN ORDER TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF A SIGHTING. If they are available please include copies. Items should be identified with the date taken, location, and observer signature. Items will not be returned.)**

List manuals used or experts consulted to verify identification. \_\_\_\_\_

Provide a brief background on wildlife knowledge and/or experience, or additional information that would add to the validity of the sighting. \_\_\_\_\_

Can this be verified by someone else or can anyone vouch for your identification skills?  Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any additional information that may be useful in regards to the condition of the animal or location. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Your Contact information*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection



#### **Return to:**

Endangered and Nongame Species Program  
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife  
PO Box 420, Mail Code 501-03  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420  
Attn: Michael Davenport  
Phone: (609) 292-9400  
Fax: (609) 984-1414



### **Instructions**

1. Complete this form for first-hand field observations only.
2. **DO NOT COMPLETE THIS FORM** if the source of your information is a report, letter, conversation, or other document. Send us the documentation instead.
3. Attach a copy of a map OR the geographic coordinates of the observation (*\*see below*)
4. Only report one species at each location per form and map.

#### **\*Mapping**

Geographic coordinates OR a map are necessary to help our biologists determine if suitable habitat is present at the location of the sighting. Once the suitability of the area is determined, the coordinates or map provided will aid in the identification of areas to be protected. Ideally the most accurate form of map is an aerial photo which can be obtained from <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/imapnj/imapnj.htm>, if you are comfortable with your ability to identify the location of the sighting accurately on them. In addition, satellite-derived images are available at <http://maps.google.com>. These photos can be printed and clearly marked with a pen. An alternative to an aerial photo or satellite image is a topographic map. You may also print copies of topographic maps from the internet at <http://www.topozone.com>. Please use 1:24,000 scale topographic maps only.

Refer to the ENSP homepage for further information: <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/ensphome.htm>