

In submitting your data (i.e. your data record and your contact details as provided in your data entry form) and your images to the Australian Marine Mammal Centre (AMMC) of the Australian Antarctic Division you are agreeing to the terms and conditions outlined at www.marinemammals.gov.au/sorp/sightings.

a later stage.

[PDF] and record your sighting for upload at

www.marinemammals.gov.au/sorp/sightings

whale sighting report form at:

Upload your digital photos using our online

To report a sighting

We need your help finding whales



www.marinemammals.gov.au/sorp/sightings

- Whale colouration, fins, flukes and scars are used like fingerprints in humans to identify individuals.
- always take photographs when the sun is behind you
 - use shutter speeds of 1000 - 2000 or the 'sports/action' mode when photographing a moving whale
 - keep the aperture at 11 or higher (as a greater depth of field is needed). ISO settings of 400 or 800 are best
 - record the date, time, and location (latitude/longitude)
 - record how many whales were present and how many were photographed
 - note clearly which photographs belong to each sighting report
 - reduce your images to no more than 5Mb JPG files for upload

How to take whale identification photos





Blue whale - flanks and dorsal fins



Killer whale - dorsal fins and markings



Humpback whale - flukes



Southern right whale - callosities* and scars



The Southern Ocean Research Partnership (SORP) is an international consortium of scientists investigating the status of Southern Ocean whale populations using non-lethal techniques such as photo-identification, genetics and satellite tagging.

We are seeking images of all Southern Ocean and Antarctic whales to add to international research catalogues.

In particular:

- blue whale flanks and dorsal fins
- killer whale dorsal fins and markings
- humpback whale flukes
- southern right whale callosities* and scars

These photographs will allow the identification of individual whales which can then be used to determine the movements and abundance of these iconic species.

Further information about these catalogues and photo identification techniques is available at:

www.marinemammals.gov.au/sorp/sightings

*Callosities are the white/grey lumps that form unique patterns on the heads of southern right whales.

