Event Codes: 1=Start Effort, 2=Change Observer, 3=Effort Change, 4=Sighting, 5=Stop Effort, 6=five-minute scan, 7=Other

Gray whale observation sheet: Instructions

Event Codes: 1=Start Effort, 2=Change Observer, 3=Effort Change, 4=Gray Whale Sighting, 5=Stop Effort, 6=five-minute scan, 7=Other
Note that 3=Effort Change is when some environmental parameter, such as Beaufort, sun, wind, glare, changes from one value or threshold to another.
You will typically have number 1 on the first line, then a 6 every 5 minutes, then a 5 at the end of your session. Whale sightings and other unusual events will occur in between .

Time: Record in military time (e.g. 2pm=1400)

Obs. Initials: That's you

Beaufort State: This is an indicator of sea state and wind speed. See beaufort sheet for a description of Beafort states.
Note that surveys are only conducted in Baufort state less that 6.

Visability (1-10): On a scale of 1-10, how far can you see out from shore (1=complete fog and no visability, 10=clear visability to the horizon).
Note, when at sea level on a clear day, the horizon is at ~25 miles.

% Cloud cover: Looking directly up, estimate what % of the sky is covered in clouds

 # whales: total # observed for that event code

Cow/calf: Only note this if you clearly see a calf swimming closely with an adult. The calf is about 1/2 the size of the adult.

Unusual behavior: Besides surfacing (breathing) and showing flukes, note spyhopping, breaching, or other unusual behaviors.

Notes: Anything else to note, such as other marine mammals, boats, or harrassment.

Survey Process:

Start your survey by collecting environmetal data (Beufort scale, visablitity, cloud cover). Once you are ready to start, record your initials, time, and event code=1). With binoculars, scan from shore out to the horizon. Repeat this effort from continuous angles, starting from North to South. Note any gray whales and other marine mammals observed during this scan. This scan should be repeated every five minutes (event code=6).