



**Link to submit photos:**  
**<https://happywhale.com/submitMedia>**

For the Naturalist / Whale Watching Professional

We love you! As whale watch naturalists and expedition marine mammal experts, you have the knowledge and ability to create game changing data for science. In recognition of this, we want to provide you with tools and resources to make your job more fun and rewarding.

Yes it is true, your data can be game changing! Data from whale watch voyages and expedition cruises cannot hope to be as in depth as data from a dedicated scientific cruise, *but* research voyages cannot be on the water as frequently as you are, so your contributions can add incredible scope to data available for marine mammal science. This repetition can add up to enough to document almost every whale in a population, in some cases, and repeat sightings of individuals can help us understand movement patterns and population dynamics such as survivorship. We know you have knowledge and skills built over many long days at sea, and we hope that by providing you with a connection to active science that we can help you learn more about your whales and other marine mammals, and help keep your love of the seas alive.

What we ask of you: because you know what you are encountering, you have the skills to create high quality sighting data with scientific rigor. You can put as much or as little effort into this as fits with your interest and your role aboard ship; at any level we want your experience to be positive. Most important for the science is, at minimum, quality photo ID images from you with good location data.

We would like to receive your best identification photographs of every encounter of each marine mammal (defining an encounter as one sighting per individual marine mammal per day) as well as any descriptive photos of the encounter, such as mothers with calves, any observed scars, etc. Please review this guide to what ID features are best for southern ocean whale species: <https://bit.ly/whale-photoID-guide>.

What we can provide for you – we want to provide a great experience of participatory science. To do so:

- We will identify your whales and notify you when they are seen again.
- We will build a page for you within Happywhale of all your contributions. These are respectively also associated with the organization/company you are on the water with.
- We will build a page for the organization/company you are on the water with, where all the organization/company contributions can be explored.
- If you want to engage future participants for a specific voyage, you can collect names + email addresses for guests and send these to us; we will link guests to your voyage so they will be notified of animals identified and future resightings.
- As an inspiring activity to raise funds for conservation science, travelers can adopt and name previously unnamed whales. This can be through hosting an auction, raffle or direct donation. Funds can be directed to us (tax deductible for US citizens (<https://happywhale.com/adoptawhale>)) or any marine conservation charity of the donor's choice.