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<b>Title</b>	<b>MEDIN data guideline for ad-hoc sightings and non-effort or quantitative based visual surveys of marine life</b>
<b>MEDIN Discipline</b>	Marine Biodiversity
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<b>Summary</b>	This guideline defines the format of data and information produced from the collection of Ad-hoc sightings and non-effort or non-quantitative visual surveys.
<b>Keywords</b>	Sightings, Ad-hoc Records, Volunteer Sightings

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1.0	12/09/12	First draft of document
1.1	13/11/12	Incorporated comments and excel template

### **1.1. Scope and data format for submission to DAC**

This guideline covers the collection of ad-hoc records or sightings, where records are collected with no specific method used to collect the data. e.g. species seen during other activities. It may also be used to present the collation of records from surveys where no quantitative or effort-based methods were used and to present data from academic papers outlining the distribution of a species where data is not otherwise publicly available. If creating survey records from data collation care must be taken to ensure that records are not duplicated elsewhere.

Following feedback from users the preferred format for holding raw species data is in the format where each record is presented as a row. This is how it is anticipated that data is exchanged as it allows the application of other information such as stage of development, biomass etc to be recorded for each species. However it is recognized that often results are produced in a matrix format and this may be used for specific applications.

To submit this data to a Data Archive Centre the data must be saved and sent either in an excel format or as individual CSV files.

### **1.2. Background to Data Guidelines**

The Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN) is working towards creating a framework of consistent standards covering the major types of data collection undertaken in the marine environment around the UK. The principle benefits of this suite of standards are:

- Allows contracting organizations to easily specify a format that data should be returned in that can be readily used and includes all relevant attributes
- Provides a consistent format for contractors to work to (rather than a different format for each contract)
- Data can be readily exported to Data Archiving Centres and other users
- Instills good practice amongst users

Each standard defines the data and information that must be stored with a particular data type to ensure it can be readily used and reused. As this type of information is specific for different data types, guidelines are developed for each type. This document describes one such format. Other standards can be accessed through [www.oceannet.org](http://www.oceannet.org).

### 1.3. Using this data guideline

This guideline is split into sections that refer to information that can be collated at different levels:

This guideline is split into sections that refer to information that can be collated at different levels:

**Project (Optional)** - a collection of surveys that have been completed for a common purpose

**Survey** - a uniquely identifiable programme of data collection such as a research cruise, moored instrument deployment or survey event

**Fixed Station (Optional)** – a target location used as the basis for replicate sample events and for repeat monitoring surveys. This may be a frequently visited site for the purposes of the sightings guideline.

**Sightings Data** – the data

Information that is likely to be the same for all samples (e.g. ship used, datums used) is collated in the 'Survey Information' table. Information that is common to each station and sample is collected in the 'Sample Event' table and the raw data is collected in the 'Sample Data' table. The project, survey and fixed station tables in this guideline are common to all MEDIN guidelines and may be used in part to derive a MEDIN discovery metadata record. Where the survey is part of a ship cruise then the cruise report may hold the required information.

The tables below outline the data fields that are anticipated for this type of sampling. Each field is mandatory, conditional or optional as indicated by M, C, or O respectively. Conditional means that the field must be completed if a value is known. A description of what to include for each data field is also provided, as is a link to the controlled vocabularies that should be used where available.

You may use the tables below to create your own template but you must supply the data using the exact field title as provided in these guidelines. MEDIN provide a template spreadsheet containing the required data field titles but data can be supplied in whatever file format works best for your situation. An alternative dBASE compatible field title is also supplied if your data is provided in formats where field title length is limited. Please do not mix the field title naming conventions.

In the event that historical data, which does not have all the necessary mandatory fields is being configured into this guideline, then it is permissible to use the following entry terms:

Term	Description
unknown	The correct value is not known to and not computable by the creator of this information. However a correct value probably exists.
inapplicable	There is no appropriate value. To be used in cases where metadata elements cannot be set null due to schema constraints.

In some cases it may be necessary to extend this guideline for a specific purpose such as a specific exchange of data between applications or to fulfill the needs of a specific project. This is permissible however we advise that the broad structure and format is maintained and that where possible controlled vocabularies are used. As any extension to the structure and format may be useful for other organizations please inform MEDIN of further agreements.

#### 1.4. Controlled Vocabularies

The available controlled vocabulary lists used for this MEDIN data guideline are provided primarily by SeaDataNet, the International Council for the Sea (ICES) and EPSG. If a term is not available in a recommended list then please contact MEDIN to arrange for the term to be added.

The SeaDataNet list may be viewed at [http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/v\\_bodc\\_vocab/welcome.aspx](http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/v_bodc_vocab/welcome.aspx). By clicking on the list any term may be searched for by using the drop-down menus or all terms viewed by clicking search. The terms may be viewed in groups of 15 or may be downloaded into an excel file.

The ICES term lists are available at <http://www.ices.dk/datacentre/reco/>. Select which list you require from the 'Reference Code List' drop-down box. The results are shown for the selected list and may be downloaded into MS Excel by selecting the inverted green arrow.

There are a number of ways of describing a spatial dataset. Common horizontal coordinate reference systems include WGS84 and British National Grid. Common vertical coordinate reference systems include Highest Astronomical Tide and Ordnance Datum Newlyn (ODN). It is important that the coordinate reference system used for a data set is recorded so conversions can be carried out between reference systems. The EPSG database of coordinate reference systems (<http://www.epsg.org/Geodetic.html>) provides a dictionary of reference systems. In brief, to find a code, click on the OGP Online Registry and if you know the title (eg WGS84) then type this in the 'Name' field and click search. The name, code and further information is displayed. If you are looking for a specific type of reference system such as 'vertical' then click in the 'Type' box, hover over coordinate reference system and click on vertical and then click the search button and all recorded vertical reference systems are shown. If you want to search for a reference system in a particular part of the world (e.g. Northern Ireland Grid) then you

may do so by submitting a term to the 'Area' box or filling out the latitudes and longitudes and clicking search. The website also provides a database of the reference systems and web services to access the information.

### **1.5. Relationship between MEDIN data guidelines and MEDIN discovery metadata**

The MEDIN discovery metadata format is aimed at allowing the non-informed user to discover data sets and it is likely that one 'discovery' data set record will contain a large range of data types that are in turn covered by a range of data guidelines. To enable individuals to reuse data of a specific nature (e.g. benthic invertebrate data) then related information must be collected (e.g. data owner, reference systems used etc). Some of the information which is collected at the Survey Level in a data guideline is also required to create a discovery metadata record. Who creates the MEDIN discovery record for a dataset is case specific and dependant on the organization, and the relationship it has with a Data Archive Centre. However it is intended that the information collected at the 'Survey Information' level is reused for creating a MEDIN discovery metadata record. Further details are available on the MEDIN website which demonstrate clearly which fields in the MEDIN Data Guidelines can be reused for which elements in the MEDIN Discovery Metadata Standard.

### **1.6. Updates and Feedback**

If you have any comments or feedback on this guidelines please contact [enquiries@oceannet.org](mailto:enquiries@oceannet.org). Standards develop over time and it is likely that this standard will change in the future. We advise that you return to the [MEDIN website](#) to identify new versions and that you sign up to the MEDIN Standards e-mail listing (e-mail [tele@bodc.ac.uk](mailto:tele@bodc.ac.uk)) and [Marine Data News](#) to be kept informed of developments.

**2.1. Project Information (Optional).** If your collection of data forms part of a wider project or time series then the below details must be recorded. If the work is a small survey then the details below may not be required. A project is a collection of surveys that have been completed for a common purpose. For example: an environmental impact assessment composed of a number of separate surveys; scientific research composed of a number of different research cruises; a legislative monitoring programme which is conducted each year over several years. A project is usually funded by the same organization(s) for its lifetime.

**M, C, O** indicate which fields are mandatory, conditional or optional. You must fill in all mandatory fields.

Field Title	M, C,O	Description	Recommended Controlled Vocabulary or Format	dBASE compatible Field Title
<b>projectName</b>	M	The nationally/internationally accepted version of the project name.	Free text; e.g. North Hoyle Windfarm EIA; Rapid Climate Change; Dogger Bank pSAC Monitoring Programme; EA Bathing Water Monitoring Programme 1989-2010 ;	projName
<b>projectCode</b>	M	Provide a code to uniquely identify the project and allow links to be made between the tables. To ensure uniqueness, it is recommended that the website of the data owner is used, followed by a unique code which should reflect the code used by the funding organization where possible. e.g. contract code.	Free text; e.g.  MarineSightingsNetwork <a href="http://www.dassh.ac.uk/ME102">http://www.dassh.ac.uk/ME102</a> ; <a href="http://www.bodc.ac.uk/RCC">http://www.bodc.ac.uk/RCC</a> ;	projCode

<b>projectStartDate</b>	M	The date that the project started which is from when the funding was in place to start. Use the 1 <sup>st</sup> of the month if the exact date is not known.	Date; yyyy-mm-dd; e.g. 2001-01-24; 1973-01-01	projStart
<b>projectEndDate</b>	C	The date that the project finished or is due to finish. Use the last day of the month if the exact date is not known.	Date; yyyy-mm-dd; e.g. 2007-01-24; 1976-01-01	projEnd
<b>projectWebsite</b>	C	If a project website exists give the address. This should be the web address of the environmental survey and not, in the case of environmental impact assessments, the engineering development.	URL; e.g. <a href="http://www.noc.soton.ac.uk/rapid/rapid.php">http://www.noc.soton.ac.uk/rapid/rapid.php</a>	projWeb

**2.2. Survey Information (Data Activity).** A subset of the standard MEDIN survey information is used to record ad-hoc sightings and non effort-based visual survey data which may not be part of a dedicated survey. This information is however important in establishing the accuracy of records which will help ensure that their appropriate use is maximised

**M, C, O** indicate which fields are M - mandatory (must be filled in), C - conditional (must be filled in if exists in data resource, e.g. if a depth coordinate system was used the depth and ), or O - optional respectively.

Field Title	M, C, O	Description	Recommended Controlled Vocabulary or Format	dBASE Compatible Field Title
<b>surveyName</b>	M	Title of the survey	Free text; e.g. 2004 CCW Menai Strait benthic monitoring survey	survName
<b>surveyType</b>	M	Category of survey for use in subsequent searching for certain types of surveys.	Free text; e.g. Ad-hoc sighting, Non effort-based visual survey	survType



<b>surveyAbstract</b>	M	Brief description of the purpose of the survey and other types of measurements that were made for the survey.	Free Text; e.g. Rockpooling, Looking for seaslugs, Ad-hoc sightings whilst collecting data for monitoring by MBA staff. Species list from seashore safari public event.	survAbs
<b>surveyCode</b>	M	A unique code for the survey to allow links to be built between this and sample event data, (the cruise identifier code could be used). To ensure uniqueness, it is recommended that the website of organization responsible for the work is used followed by a unique code designated by the responsible organization.	Free text; e.g.  BSEELEY_07_03_01,  <a href="http://www.mba.ac.uk/SealifeSurvey99_12">http://www.mba.ac.uk/SealifeSurvey99_12</a>	survCode
<b>projectCode</b>	C	If the survey forms part of a wider project then state the code of the project given in the project table (Table 2.1) to allow links to be made between the tables.	Free text; e.g. MarineSightingsNetwork	projCode
<b>originatorIndividual</b>	C	If a person who is not associated with any organization generated the data then please provide the name here.	Free text; Format: Firstname surname e.g. David Fenwick	origrInd

<b>originator</b>	C	If the originator is part of an organisation state the organization that they belong to here or organization who has created the data set. If the organization is not in EDMO please contact enquiries@oceannet.org to add it.	Controlled vocabulary: European Directory of Marine Organisations at <a href="http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/edmo/">http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/edmo/</a> ; e.g. 28: Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Lowestoft Laboratory 2588: ABP Marine Environmental Services Ltd	origin
<b>ownerIndividual</b>	M	If a person who is not associated with any organization owns the data then please provide the name here.	Free text; e.g. David Fenwick	ownInd
<b>owner</b>	C	Organization that owns the data set. If the organization is not in EDMO please contact enquiries@oceannet.org to add it.	Controlled vocabulary: European Directory of Marine Organisations at <a href="http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/edmo/">http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/edmo/</a> e.g. 78: Department of Environment Fisheries and Rural Affairs 53: BP Exploration and Production	owner

<b>surveyStartDate</b>	M	The date and time that the survey started.	Date or DateTime; yyyy-mm-dd or yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss e.g. 2009-01-24 12:33:00	survStart
<b>surveyEndDate</b>	C	The date and time that the survey ended. May be left null if the survey is ongoing.	Date or DateTime; yyyy-mm-dd or yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss e.g. 2009-02-16 16:33:00	survEnd
<b>spatialCRS*</b>	M	Describes the system of spatial referencing (coordinate system). I.e. the datum used to provide details of latitude and longitude. (See section 1.4 on accessing controlled vocabularies). There are additional fields to indicate the datum of the original data if the coordinates have been transformed.	Controlled vocabulary: EPSG Geodetic Parameter Dataset at <a href="http://www.epsg-registry.org/">http://www.epsg-registry.org/</a> ; e.g. <b>WGS84</b> code: EPSG::7030; <b>British National Grid</b> (projected) code: EPSG::27700; <b>ETRS89 / UTM zone 28N</b> code: EPSG::25828; <b>ETRS89 / UTM zone 29N</b> code: EPSG::25829; <b>ED50</b> code: EPSG::4230; <b>UTM31N</b> code: EPSG::23031	spatialCRS

<b>originalCRS</b>	C	Datum of original coordinate if different from the one used to supply data.	Controlled vocabulary: EPSG Geodetic Parameter Dataset at <a href="http://www.epsg-registry.org/">http://www.epsg-registry.org/</a> ; e.g. <b>WGS84</b> code: EPSG::7030; <b>British National Grid</b> (projected) code: EPSG::27700; <b>ETRS89 / UTM zone 28N</b> code: EPSG::25828; <b>ETRS89 / UTM zone 29N</b> code: EPSG::25829; <b>ED50</b> code: EPSG::4230; <b>UTM31N</b> code: EPSG::23031	origCRS
<b>transformation</b>	C	Transformation used to create decimal degrees if transformation undertaken.	Free Text; e.g. data was converted from OSGB to WGS84 in ArcGIS using the petroleum transformation.	trans

<b>positionFix*</b>	M	Position fix method and source. Give the method and source of the position fix instrument.	Free Text; e.g. Differential GPS taken from the ships navigation equipment. 4 point satellite fix achieved	posFix
<b>horizontalAccuracy*</b>	M	Horizontal positional accuracy. How accurate the spatial positions are likely to be.	Decimal; units = meters e.g. 15.2	horiAcc
<b>depthCRS*</b>	C	Depth coordinate reference system. Give the reference to which the depth has been calculated e.g. Ordnance Datum Newlyn; Highest Astronomical Tide. Mandatory if seabed depths are given for each sample. See section 1.4 on accessing controlled vocabulary lists.	Controlled vocabulary: EPSG Geodetic Parameter Dataset at <a href="http://www.epsg-registry.org/">http://www.epsg-registry.org/</a> e.g. <b>Ordnance Datum Newlyn</b> code: EPSG::5701 <b>Malin Head height</b> code: EPSG::5731	depthCRS
<b>verticalAccuracy*</b>	C	Vertical positional accuracy. How accurate the vertical resolution is. Must be provided if seabed depths are given.	Decimal; units = meters e.g. 0.5	vertAcc

<b>platformType*</b>	O	The platform type (e.g. Research Vessel) from which the sampling device was deployed.	Controlled vocabulary; SeadataNet Platform Classes, Table L061 at <a href="http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/v_bodc_vocab/welcome.aspx/">http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/v_bodc_vocab/welcome.aspx/</a> e.g. 31: Research Vessel; 13: beach/intertidal zone structure; 48: mooring; 71: human	platType
<b>shipName*</b>	C	Mandatory if a vessel was used for the survey. The name of the ship from which the sampling device was deployed. If your ship is not on the list please contact <a href="mailto:accessions@ices.dk">accessions@ices.dk</a>	Controlled vocabulary: ICES Reference Codes, Table SHIPC at <a href="http://www.ices.dk/datacentre/reco/">http://www.ices.dk/datacentre/reco/</a> e.g. 74LG: Lough Foyle AA30: Unspecified Ship 74E9: Cefas Endeavour AA36: Unspecified Fishing Vessel AA33: Unspecified Self-Propelled Small Boat	shipName

<b>cruiseReportReference*</b>	O	Cruise report or boat log reference if applicable.	Free text; in reference format. e.g. Litt, E.J. 2009. PHiXT 4. 30 July to 2 August 2009 RV Prince Madog POL Coastal Observatory Liverpool Bay Cruise Report. POL Coastal Observatory, Liverpool.	cruiseRef
<b>confidentiality</b>	O	Note if the survey is confidential	Free text; e.g. Restricted Public	confidy

\*Fields marked are unlikely to be required for the collection of leisure and recreation data

**2.3. Fixed (Target) Station Information (Optional).** You should only use this table if you are returning to the same fixed point/transect/area on several occasions to form a time series – ie. there is a target location for your sample event. When returning to a target station, the actual sample event may not be in exactly the same location each time due to ship movements or sampling strategy, however it is useful to record both the position which is intended to be sampled (fixed) and the actual sampling position (sample). Therefore, the information below must be included if a fixed point, transect or area is used as the basis for replicate sample events and for repeat monitoring surveys. Actual coordinates should be placed in the sample event table. A fixed station may be a point, transect, or an area. If the fixed station is a transect or an area then the secondary latitude and longitude fields must be completed.

Field Title	M, C, O	Description	Recommended Controlled Vocabulary or Format	dBASE Compatible Field Title
<b>fixedStationID</b>	M	Fixed station identifier. A unique identifier for the station.	Free text. e.g. Stanton_Bank_station_4 (point) EastChan_Innerdover_se04 Liverpool_Dublin_ferry_route1 (transect) Lagan_Estuary (area)	fixStatID
<b>geometry</b>	M	Description of fixed station spatial form. Describe if the fixed station is a point, transect (curve) or an area (surface).	Controlled vocabulary: SeadataNet Geospatial Feature Type, TableL021 at <a href="http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/v_bodc_vocab/welcome.aspx/">http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/v_bodc_vocab/welcome.aspx/</a> ; e.g. 004: Point 003: Curve 005: Surface	geometry



<b>primaryLatitude</b>	M	The primary latitude of the fixed station must be given in decimal degrees. For a point this field is set to the point latitude; for a transect it is set to the latitude of the start of the transect; for an area it is set to the southern edge of the box. Units are positive North.	Decimal degrees; minimum of four decimal places. e.g. 54.5837	primLat
<b>primaryLongitude</b>	M	The primary longitude of the sample must be given in decimal degrees. For a point this field is set to the point longitude; for a transect it is set to the longitude of the start of the transect; for an area it is set to the western edge of the box. Units are positive east (West is negative, East is positive).	Decimal degrees; minimum of four decimal places. e.g. -5.5837	primLon
<b>secondaryLatitude</b>	C	The secondary latitude of the fixed station must be given in decimal degrees. For a point this field is not required; for a transect it is set to the latitude of the end of the transect; for an area it is set to the northern edge of the box. Units are positive North.	Decimal degrees; minimum of four decimal places. e.g. 55.7393	secLat

<b>SecondaryLongitude</b>	C	The secondary longitude of the sample must be given in decimal degrees. For a point this field is not required; for a transect it is set to the longitude of the end of the transect; for an area it is set to the eastern edge of the box. Units are positive east (West is negative, East is positive).	Decimal degrees; minimum of fourdecimal places. e.g. -3.7394	secLon
<b>originalCoordinates</b>	C	Original coordinates and coordinate transformation technique. If coordinates were transformed from a different reference system into decimal degrees then the original coordinate and original coordinate reference system should be given, the method used to transform stated and any differences in the relative (significant figures) of the original transformation explained.	Free text; e.g. SX498476, Coordinates were transformed from British National Grid using in house software 'BODC_transform'. The number of significant figures was reduced to 4 decimal degrees in line with the accuracy of the coordinate and transformation technique.	origCoords
<b>fixedStationNotes</b>	O	Any further notes on the fixed station that may be of relevance can be added here	Free text; e.g. Rocky reef, west of West Maiden Also known as Hell's Mouth	fixStNotes

**2.4. Sightings Data.** When providing the sightings data it must be clearly linked to the tow information or sample event. The preferred format for holding the raw species data is each record being presented as a separate row. However it is recognized that often results are produced in a matrix format and this may be used for specific applications. If your data were part of a quantitative or qualitative survey please use one of the other guidelines to records you data

Heading	M, O, C	Description	Recommended Term List or Format	dBASE Compatible Field Title
<b>sampleEventID</b>	M	A unique identifier for the sample under consideration. Replicate identifiers should be suffixed to the end of a sample identifier using an underscore such as _1 or _a	Free text; e.g.  WoolacombeBeach_09_09_28	sampEvID
<b>surveyCode</b>	M	The survey code must be stated to allow links to be built between this table and the survey table (Table 2.2).The cruise identifier code could be used.	Free text; e.g.  BSEELEY_07_03_01,  <a href="http://www.mba.ac.uk/SealifeSurvey99_12">http://www.mba.ac.uk/SealifeSurvey99_12</a>	survCode
<b>methodID</b>	M	Identify the method using the term “Ad-hoc sighting” or “Non effort-based sighting”	Controlled Vocabulary; Ad-hoc sighting Non effort-based sighting	methodID
<b>fixedStationID</b>	C	If sightings are reported from areas regularly used by a recorder you may use the fixed station table to record the co-ordinates.	Free text; e.g. WhitsandsBay, WreckLucy	fixStatID

<b>sampleLatitude</b>	C	Latitude of sample. The latitude of the sample must be given in decimal degrees. Units are positive north.	Decimal degrees; minimum of two decimal places. e.g. 54.5837	samLat
<b>sampleLongitude</b>	C	Longitude of sample. The longitude of the sample must be given in decimal degrees. Units are positive east.	Decimal degrees; minimum of two decimal places. e.g. -3.476	samLon
<b>originalSampleLatitude</b>	C	Latitude, y-coordinate or gridreference of sample given in original recorded format. The latitude of the sample given in whichever format was used to record at the time of sampling if not recording decimal degrees.	Free text; e.g. 50°47'24" SX324512	origSamLat
<b>originalSampleLongitude</b>	C	Longitude or x-coordinate of sample given in original recorded format. The longitude of the sample given in whichever format was used to record at the time of sampling if not recording decimal degrees.	Free text; e.g. -4°21'53"	origSamLon
<b>samplePositionalAccuracy</b>	M	Indicate how accurate the spatial positions are likely to be.	Decimal; units = metres	samPosAc

<b>locationName</b>	O	The name of the sampling location.	Free text; e.g. Carbis Bay	locName
<b>locationDescription</b>	O	A textual description of the location.	Free text; e.g. 7.5 miles south of the Eddystone lighthouse	locDesc
<b>sDate</b>	M	The date of the sighting.	Date; yyyy-mm-dd e.g. 2009-12-01	sDate
<b>dateRange</b>	C	The end date of a sample collection date range if only a vague date is known e.g. recorded as July 2012.	Date; yyyy-mm-dd e.g. 2009-12-31	datRang
<b>sTime</b>	O	The time of the sighting if known.	Time; hh:mm:ss e.g. 13:33:00	sTime

<b>recorder</b>	C	(Sampling Personnel) Names or the personnel who were involved in the sighting if known	Free text; full personnel names separated by semi-colon if a team collated the data; e.g. Joe Bloggs;	samPerson
<b>determiner</b>	C	Names of the personnel who were involved in confirming the identification of the specimen	Free text; full personnel names separated by semi-colon if a team collated the data; e.g. Brian Begger	determn
<b>sampleNotes</b>	O	Any further notes on the sample collection that may be of relevance field observations of sediment or habitat can be added here.	Free text; e.g. Coarse sediment with shell and stone. Mudflat. Low Water on spring tide (0.7m)	samNotes
<b>recordID</b>	M	A unique reference to this taxon occurrence in this sample.	Free text; e.g. TXON087TH47; PS74926T0001	taxonID

<b>taxonName</b>	M	Scientific name. Give species name where possible or higher taxonomic group if not.	Controlled vocabulary: MSBIAS at <a href="http://www.marinespecies.org/msbias/aphia.php?p=search;">http://www.marinespecies.org/msbias/aphia.php?p=search;</a> e.g. <i>Mytilus edulis</i> Gobidae	taxName
<b>taxonQualifier</b>	O	Additional information regarding the taxon group should be indicated here. The species notes section is the appropriate place for additional biological or ecological observations.	Free text;  e.g. Type 2, Indet, Male, Juvenile, Female with eggs	taxonDet
<b>originalName</b>	C	Original Name Recorded. Give the scientific or common name recorded if different from the WORMS scientific name. The scientific name may be the same or differ from the currently accepted WORMS ID and only the Taxon name may be altered after post entry QA by a determiner.	Free text;  e.g. Sunfish Goby Austrominius modestus	originalName
<b>aphiaID</b>	O	The identifier for the taxon from the MSBIAS reference list may be recorded. These identifiers can be found on the MSBIAS website: <a href="http://www.marinespecies.org/msbias">http://www.marinespecies.org/msbias</a>	Controlled vocabulary: MSBIAS at <a href="http://www.marinespecies.org/msbias/aphia.php?p=search;">http://www.marinespecies.org/msbias/aphia.php?p=search ;</a> e.g. 3456	aphiaID

<b>abundance</b>	M	Abundance of taxon in sample. If a mix of numeric and non-numeric abundances are used this field may be split into numeric abundance and non-numeric abundance fields to assist analysis.	Free text, Integer or Decimal; If counts of individual taxon then give number e.g. 34. If presence/absence then give P/A. Colonial organisms should be recorded as -999 if numeric fields are being used.	abundance
<b>abundanceUnit</b>	M	The units used to record the abundance value. If lots, or common was used not relating to a known scale use Non-standard abundance	Free text; e.g. Count, SACFOR, modified SACFOR, Presence/Absence, Percentage, Estimated count, Non standard abundance.	abundUnit
<b>stranding</b>	O	Note if the specimen was stranded, dead or if remains were found. You may also note the condition of the specimen(s) and who it was reported to.	Free text; e.g. live stranded, dead stranded, shell, freshly dead, mildly decomposed, moderately decomposed, skeletal remains. BMDLSS alerted.	stranding
<b>specimens</b>	C	If voucher specimens of the taxa are held then indicate here.	Free text; e.g. voucher specimens of all Mollusca recorded were stored.	specimens



<b>referenceImageID</b>	C	If images of the site or specimens were taken please indicate file names separated by a comma	Free text; e.g. Images of Mytilus edulis were taken to confirm identification. Images reference numbers are: Mytilus_02mar08_01 to Mytilus_02mar08_68	refImageID
<b>imageCredit</b>	C	Note image credit if not recorder	Free text; e.g. Jo Smith	imgCred
<b>speciesNotes</b>	O	Any further notes that may be of relevance	Free text; e.g. seen swimming slowly on surface in calm sea	specNotes
<b>length</b>	O	Length of specimen	Decimal; e.g. 6.5	measVal

<b>lengthUnits</b>	<input type="radio"/>	Units of length given, Preferably in a SI Unit meters or millimeters. The type pf measurement may also be recorded here. e.g. nose to tail, across carapace	Free text; e.g. mm	measUnit
<b>weight</b>	<input type="radio"/>	Weight of specimen	Decimal; e.g. 97.5	measVal
<b>weightUnits</b>	<input type="radio"/>	Units of weight given, Preferably in a SI Unit Kilograms or grams.	Free text; e.g. g	measUnit
<b>transcriptionChecks</b>	<input type="radio"/>	If the data has been transcribed from analogue to digital and a proportion of records have been checked for transcription errors then indicate here	Free text and Date; Name of person checking data and date in yyyy-mm-dd format. e.g. Dr B. Smith, 2009-07-09	transChk

<b>qualityAssuranceNotes</b>	O	Note pertaining to the validation of the record including any changes in locational position or species identification with justification for the changes.	Free text; e.g. Identified from photograph. Location position plotted on land in town centre moved coordinates from 53.2345, 12.478 to match location description of 'sandy beach at low tide mark next to headland' and adjusted precision from 10 to 500.	qaAsNote
<b>validationDate</b>	O	Date record was validated if known	Date; yyyy-mm-dd e.g. 2010-07-26	validate
<b>confidence</b>	O	The certainty of the accuracy of the species identification	Controlled vocabulary; Definite Probable Uncertain Possible Dubious Insufficient information Definitely not	confid

<b>reference</b>	C	If sighting has been derived from a published paper indicate the reference here.	Free Text; e.g. R. N. Bamber (2012). Anthropogenic spread of the immigrant seaspider <b><i>Ammothea hilgendorffii</i></b> (Arthropoda: Pycnogonida: Ammotheidae) in UK waters. Marine Biodiversity Records,5, e78 doi:10.1017/S1755267212000668	refrnce
<b>sensitive</b>	O	Indicate if the record is restricted or sensitive.	Free text; e.g. sensitive species, sensitive life stage, restricted record.	sensit