

We ask that you record any tag seen with as much of the requested data as possible. When you are on the bluff you can resight tags from the boardwalk visually but if you have a pair of binoculars that will aid your resight. In addition, you can use the camera on your phone to take a picture of the tag and then expand the picture on your phone or send the picture to your computer and expand the picture to read the number on the tag.

The report sheet is located on the red clipboard located in the office.

Docents should use the datasheet on the clipboard to record e-seal information and not their shift log book entry or the white board (in front of the table for sign in and out). However, docents can note the seal in their log book after recording the seal's information on the datasheet on the clipboard, if desired.

Docents should report what they can actually see. In addition, it is preferable to record both color of tag and complete tag number on each seal. However, if you are able to only identify the color of the tag without the tag number go ahead and just record the color. Furthermore, if you are not able to get the complete tag number record it in the separate column for incomplete tag numbers on the datasheet. A sample data sheet is attached. Thank you for your assistance.

General procedures:

Date is the date of when you saw the tag.

Color is the color of the tag

Number is the combination of numbers or letters on the tag.

Single/double tag refers to how many tags a seal has. Refer to the legend on the spreadsheet to enter 1 tag, 2 tags, right or left or both.

Specific comments:

The data sheet on the red clipboard has several columns and the more you can fill in the better because of the fact that we are recording both seals with tags that numbers/letters can be seen and seals with tags that we just can see the color. The more information we have especially on the tags with just color noted helps us to identify when 2 observers have sighted the same tag on different days or shifts. The legend on the data sheet on the clipboard asks for what flipper or if both flippers are tagged, the sex (* asterisk) and age (**asterisk) have a legend you can use on the datasheet also. Both the location of the seal (S or N boardwalk) and the specific location on the clipboard (post number 1-13 on South and 1-30 on north) should be noted as again this helps to address potential sightings from the same seal. Any comments that would help in identification or interpretation of the seal sighted are welcome.

Besides writing the information down while on the bluff, photos of the seal along with information not visible in the photo can be emailed to Wendy at: Friends of the Elephant Seal <fes@elephantseal.org>. You might even ask a visitor to take a photo if you don't have a camera and email it to you.