

Beach Watch Codes

Codes for Dead Vertebrates Categories

Condition: Physical Condition of the specimen	
Fresh dead	2
Decomposing	3
Dried, mummified	4

Sex: Specimen gender: M male; F female; U unknown

Age: Specimen age class	
Birds - Non-gulls	
hatch year	HY
adult	AD
Gulls	
first year	FY
second year	SY
third year	TY
adult	AD
Mammals	
pup/calf	PC
immature	IM
adult	AD
Unknown, all categories	U

Photo: Y (yes); N (no); complete photo log

Oiled: Is there oil on the specimen?	
Yes	Y
No	N
Substance present and sampled, not sure if it is oil	S
If Y or S, collect an oil sample and note it in comments field.	

Oil Extent: Coverage of oil on the specimen expressed as a percent.	
Small globules <2% of body	1
2-33% of body	2
34-66% of body	3
67-100% of body	4
No oil present	N

Oil Location: Indicate primary oil location. Several areas = entire body.	
dorsal	1
ventral	2
entire body	3
head	4
feet	5
wings/flippers	6
other	7
No oil present	N

Scavenged: Y yes; N no; U unknown

Probable Cause of Death:	
shot	S
fishing related entanglement (comments required)	F
entanglement in other marine debris (comments required)	E
unknown	U
bite (shark)	B
oil	O
comments (other cause - enter an explanation in comments)	C

Tag #, Color & Location: Record any tags, bands or markings that are found on the dead specimen, collect the tag and send it to the Sanctuary office. Make any notes in the disposition field.

Comments: If a sample or specimen was collected, note where the sample/specimen was transferred e.g. GFNMS, TMMC, OSPR, Cal Academy. Any unusual observances.