

# Pinniped Monitoring Program: Data Collection Methods (1/2)

## Data Collection Method 1: Collect Data Using a Paper Datasheet

### Prepare Datasheet:

1. Download and print a copy of the datasheet [here](#), or pick up a copy from the [Project Watershed office](#).
  - Bring something to write with (pencils recommended but pens work too).
2. Fill out the tidal information **before you head out**. You can check tide levels using [this link](#).

### Collect Data:

3. As you watch the water for pinnipeds, do your best to identify:
  - The number of individual pinnipeds. Our main objective is to know how many pinnipeds are active in the river, so we don't want to count the same individual more than once.
  - The number of seals that are engaged in hunting, catching/eating fish, or using the shoreline to catch fish. **Each type of behavior only needs to be recorded once per individual pinniped.**

### Submit Data:

4. Within 48 hours of making your observations, submit your data one of two ways:
  - Option 1: Email a photo of your datasheet to [info@projectwatershed.ca](mailto:info@projectwatershed.ca).
    - Please include "Pinniped Datasheet" and the date of collection (YYYY-MM-DD) in the subject line (e.g., "Pinniped Datasheet 2025-04-10") of your email.
  - OR
  - Option 2: Copy your data into the [web map](#).
    - Follow the detailed instructions for [Method 2](#).
    - Attach a photo of your datasheet to the online survey (NOTE: You only need to do this once, not for every site).
5. You can recycle your paper datasheet once your data are successfully submitted.