

# Information and Protocol

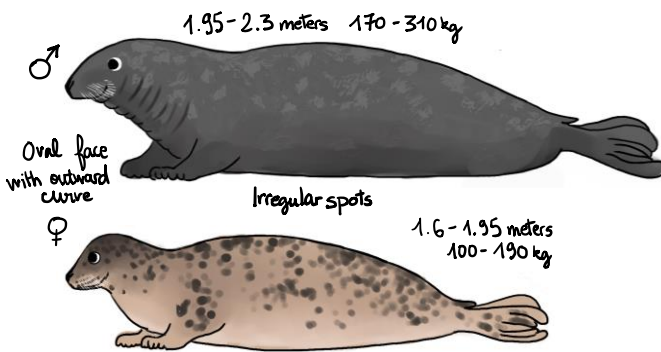
## Materials

To participate in seal monitoring, you need this **information and protocol sheet** and the printed **data sheet** which you will get from hotel reception. You also need **binoculars** (at least 8x42), and a **pencil**. You can also borrow the pair of binoculars from hotel reception. Please return them when you are done.

## What?

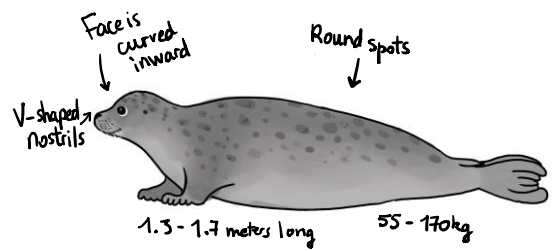
Seals at Ytri Tunga belong to either of the two seal species that breed in Iceland (except for very rare vagrants). Here is a small guide on recognizing them.

### Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*)



Vulnerable in Iceland

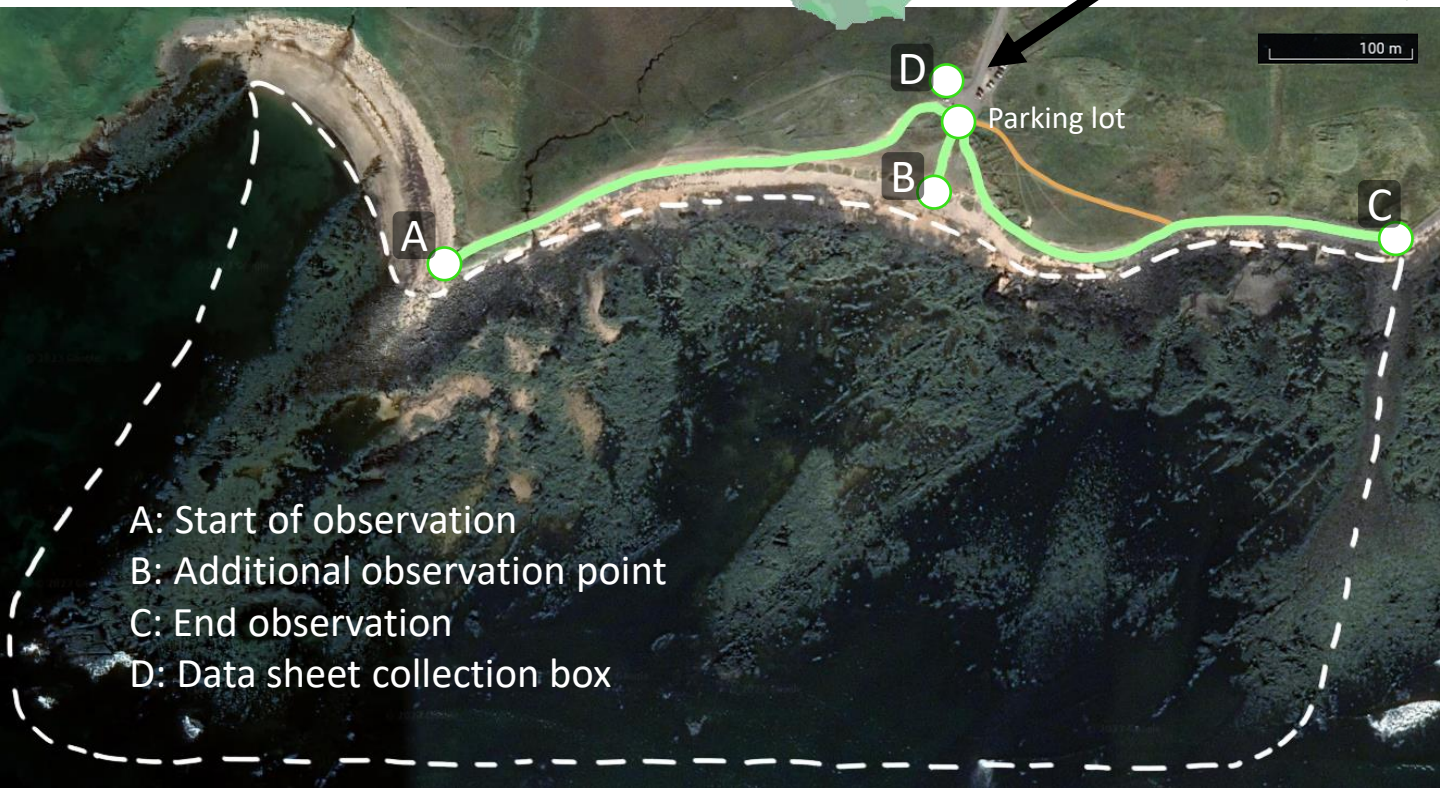
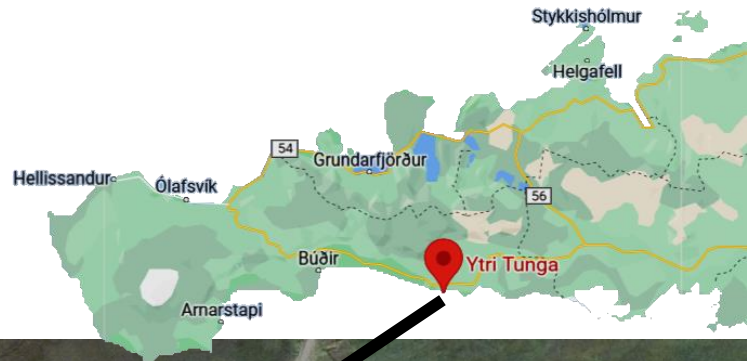
### Harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*)



Endangered in Iceland

## Where?

Monitoring takes place at Ytri Tunga beach on the Snæfellsnes peninsula, where seals are very common. The total length of the walk is about 1.6km (1mi).



- A: Start of observation
- B: Additional observation point
- C: End observation
- D: Data sheet collection box

# When?

The best time to count is **within 30 minutes of low tide** (low tide times are provided below).

June			July			August			September		
Day	Morning low tide	Evening low tide	Day	Morning low tide	Evening low tide	Day	Morning low tide	Evening low tide	Day	Morning low tide	Evening low tide
			01/07/2023	11:01	23:41	01/08/2023	00:19	12:27	01/09/2023	01:29	13:39
			02/07/2023	11:49		02/08/2023	01:05	13:13	02/09/2023	02:08	14:20
			03/07/2023	00:28	12:36	03/08/2023	01:50	13:57	03/09/2023	02:47	15:02
			04/07/2023	01:15	13:22	04/08/2023	02:34	14:42	04/09/2023	03:28	15:46
			05/07/2023	02:02	14:08	05/08/2023	03:18	15:28	05/09/2023	04:09	16:34
			06/07/2023	02:51	14:57	06/08/2023	04:02	16:16	06/09/2023	04:55	17:28
			07/07/2023	03:41	15:48	07/08/2023	04:48	17:07	07/09/2023	05:48	18:37
			08/07/2023	04:32	16:41	08/08/2023	05:37	18:05	08/09/2023	06:59	20:13
			09/07/2023	05:24	17:39	09/08/2023	06:33	19:13	09/09/2023	08:36	21:57
			10/07/2023	06:19	18:42	10/08/2023	07:39	20:37	10/09/2023	10:09	23:02
			11/07/2023	07:18	19:52	11/08/2023	08:59	22:06	11/09/2023	11:04	23:40
			12/07/2023	08:22	21:05	12/08/2023	10:18	23:11	12/09/2023	11:42	
			13/07/2023	09:27	22:14	13/08/2023	11:15	23:56	13/09/2023	00:11	12:14
			14/07/2023	10:28	23:13	14/08/2023	11:58		14/09/2023	00:39	12:44
			15/07/2023	11:22		15/08/2023	00:32	12:34	15/09/2023	01:05	13:12
			16/07/2023	00:02	12:07	16/08/2023	01:04	13:06	16/09/2023	01:30	13:40
			17/07/2023	00:43	12:47	17/08/2023	01:33	13:37	17/09/2023	01:56	14:08
			18/07/2023	01:20	13:23	18/08/2023	02:01	14:06	18/09/2023	02:22	14:37
19/06/2023	01:30	13:35	19/07/2023	01:54	13:57	19/08/2023	02:29	14:36	19/09/2023	02:49	15:09
20/06/2023	02:08	14:11	20/07/2023	02:27	14:30	20/08/2023	02:57	15:07	20/09/2023	03:19	15:44
21/06/2023	02:46	14:48	21/07/2023	03:00	15:03	21/08/2023	03:27	15:40	21/09/2023	03:54	16:29
22/06/2023	03:24	15:26	22/07/2023	03:32	15:38	22/08/2023	03:58	16:17	22/09/2023	04:38	17:34
23/06/2023	04:03	16:06	23/07/2023	04:07	16:15	23/08/2023	04:34	17:01	23/09/2023	05:46	19:05
24/06/2023	04:45	16:51	24/07/2023	04:43	16:58	24/08/2023	05:18	18:02	24/09/2023	07:24	20:48
25/06/2023	05:30	17:43	25/07/2023	05:25	17:48	25/08/2023	06:19	19:23	25/09/2023	09:10	22:11
26/06/2023	06:21	18:44	26/07/2023	06:13	18:50	26/08/2023	07:42	20:56	26/09/2023	10:25	23:04
27/06/2023	07:18	19:52	27/07/2023	07:13	20:03	27/08/2023	09:16	22:20	27/09/2023	11:16	23:47
28/06/2023	08:17	20:58	28/07/2023	08:21	21:18	28/08/2023	10:33	23:20	28/09/2023	11:59	
29/06/2023	09:15	21:57	29/07/2023	09:34	22:29	29/08/2023	11:30		29/09/2023	00:25	12:39
30/06/2023	10:10	22:51	30/07/2023	10:41	23:29	30/08/2023	00:07	12:16	30/09/2023	01:02	13:18
			31/07/2023	11:38		31/08/2023	00:49	12:58			

# How?

1. First, fill in the time and weather data section.
2. Seal counting (refer to the map)

**For results to be accurate, it is important to count the entire area and not to count outside the area outlined in white dashes on the map.**

**Be careful to keep track of which seals you have already counted so you do not count them twice. It can be easier to break down the count into smaller areas and to add-up numbers at the end.**

**Try to identify seal species. If you are not sure about a seal's species, you can count it as "unknown".**

- Walk to point A from the parking lot to start the count.
  - Follow only the green paths indicated on the map, and count as you go.
  - After you return to the parking lot from point A, make sure to visit point B which has a great field of view.
  - After you return from point B, continue towards point C and end the count there. You can walk back to the parking lot through the orange path to make a loop.
3. Write down your results in the printed table you got from hotel reception.
  4. When you are done, please follow the QR code on the data sheet to take the survey about your experience!
  5. You can deposit the data sheet in the box which you will find in the small building on the parking lot (point D).
  6. If you would like to share any pictures of the activity or the seals to us, please send them to [cecile@nnv.is](mailto:cecile@nnv.is). These pictures could be used in social media or reports.

**Be mindful: the seals are at home, and we are observers.**

**Protect the seals from disturbance during seal monitoring.**

- Move gently, keep your voice down – never throw objects.
- Keep respectful distance (100m/yds) – never touch.
- Never approach a sole pup – mum is nearby.
- Move away if seals show signs of disturbance – head up/vigilance or fleeing.
- No drones please.