



**Dr Alice Mackay**  
Research Assistant • 2001

### **What did you do at the Lighthouse ?**

I worked at the Lighthouse between April and September 2001 as a Research Assistant coordinating the long-term bottlenose dolphin photo-ID and population monitoring project. Most of my time was spent undertaking boat-based dolphin surveys and collating and matching photo-IDs with the long-term catalogue. It was a fantastic five months which I remember fondly, working in a beautiful location with great people and learning so much from the Lighthouse staff, visiting scientists, and students. A particular highlight of my time there was having the opportunity to visit the long-term Northern Fulmar study field site on Eynhallow.

### **What are you doing now ?**

The main focus of my research over the last twenty years has been trying to understand and mitigate interactions between protected species and fisheries, and provide information needed to support evidence based conservation and resource management of the marine ecosystem. I have been fortunate to collaborate with fantastic researchers around the globe on a diverse range of projects. I have conducted population monitoring, ecology and tracking studies of marine mammals and seabirds, and undertaken bycatch mitigation trials in fisheries. I have worked in both University and Government, and have been an Independent Science Consultant since 2018.

### **What advice would you give someone who wants to follow in your footsteps ?**

The advice I would give someone who wants a career in science, is to find out what your strengths are, apply these to the area(s) of science that interest you the most, always be open to collaboration, especially across disciplines, and keep asking questions.

