



Ceri Wyn Morris

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What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

Right from even before I started my MRes in Marine & Fisheries Science at the University of Aberdeen, my main goal was to work at the Lighthouse to learn about marine mammals. My thesis was on the association patterns of bottlenose dolphins, supervised by Kim Parsons and Paul Thompson. I used historical photo-ID data to look into who was associating with who, and how those associations persisted over time. We also got to go out and collect new data, and working with the team observing the animals up close was the real highlight!

What are you doing now ?

I am a Marine Mammal Specialist Advisor at Natural Resources Wales, a Welsh Government sponsored body. I provide conservation advice to developers, regulators and stakeholders including advising on Offshore Renewable Energy, to ensure impacts are properly assessed and minimised. Recently I've moved into a new role advising NRW's Regulatory approaches, making sure our environmental protection advice is legal and enforceable. Occasionally, I help our monitoring team to survey bottlenose dolphins, grey seals and Risso's dolphins - to remind me that there are some amazing animals out there and my work to protect them is worthwhile!

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

To have a career in conservation advice and regulation, you need to be pragmatic, willing to listen to different viewpoints, and able to communicate in a measured way. You can be creative in how you gain these skills - I volunteered on a humpback whale acoustics project; protected ospreys from illegal disturbance; organised community litter picks; and surveyed for otters by finding their spraint (it smells like Jasmine tea!). I built up experience in engaging with people, project management, and communicating my work. So volunteer, work in different places, with different people and get your face known while you build your skills and experience and never give up!

