



## What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

I was fortunate to spend five years at the Lighthouse both as an MSc student, PhD candidate and postdoc. My main role at the Lighthouse involved the development and running of an individual-based study of harbour seal survival, reproduction, and timing of pupping, which is still ongoing. This involved daily trips to the study site during the summers to sit on the shore photographing all the seals lying on the sandbanks and identifying them from the patterns in their fur. Over the years, this allowed us to build up a story of their lives.

## What are you doing now ?

I am a lecturer in the School of Ocean Sciences at Bangor University. My research lies at the interface between movement and population ecology and predominantly focusses on understanding how individual animals respond to environmental change. I have been fortunate to work on several multidecadal individual-based studies of seabirds and mammals, including bottlenose dolphins, northern fulmars, African elephant, grey seals and yellow-bellied marmots. I currently supervise five PhD students, and I teach marine mammal science to third year students and statistics to whoever will listen.

## What was the most valuable thing you learnt at the Lighthouse?

Although it took a move to the land-locked state Colorado to realise it, my time at the Lighthouse Field Station taught me valuable transferable skills which allowed me to develop my career. Despite everything up until that point having been purely marine focussed (and mainly marine mammals), soon after arriving in Colorado I found myself in the Rocky Mountains, living at an alpine field station, observing and catching marmots (and avoiding bears) as part of a long-term individual-based study. So don't be afraid to think outside the box, you never know what it might lead to!



**Dr Line Cordes**  
MSc, PhD & Research Fellow • 2007 - 2012

