



What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

I came to the Lighthouse Field Station in 2010 to carry out research for my MSc in Applied Marine and Fisheries Ecology at the University of Aberdeen. I investigated the survival of the northern fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) by analysing two long-term mark-recapture data sets where animals are individually tagged to enable future identification. My research was carried out via a piece of modelling software called Program MARK, and I also had a chance to join the field team for data collection on the tiny, wild and beautiful, Orcadian isle of Eynhallow.

What are you doing now ?

After leaving the Lighthouse, I went into consultancy, working in fisheries and terrestrial ecology. My passion for bioacoustics took me from bats to marine mammal monitoring and mitigation for offshore wind farm construction and other projects. After a spell of teaching I moved into environmental impact assessment coordination, and now I am back working on marine mammals at a consultancy called APEM Ltd. As the Principal Marine Mammal Consultant I am involved in building the team, and overseeing and winning work. We use specialist, technical knowledge and an understanding of the legislative environment to advise clients on their projects. The work is varied and dynamic, sitting at the crossover of industry, regulation and research. I especially enjoy how the need for new solutions (like plentiful, clean energy) drives the development of new technologies, to both solve industrial engineering challenges and improve how we monitor (and protect) species that are hard to find, like those at sea!

What was your best experience at the Lighthouse ?

Was it getting up close to the fulmars and the dolphins, the handmade pizza, the live music, the fiddle/Gaelic/singing workshops, the birthday ceilidh? For quite a small place, there was a lot to get involved in! I remember the Lighthouse as a stimulating, scientific environment filled with great conversation and friendship, and Cromarty as warm and welcoming, with stunning scenery and a creative soul.



Helen Hedworth

MSc • 2010

