



Dr Laura Williamson

MRes & PhD • 2013 - 2018



What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

My PhD was to investigate the spatio-temporal variation in harbour porpoise distribution. I performed species distribution modelling using acoustic detections from CPODs as well as video detections from aerial surveys, and used oceanographic data to determine fine-scale factors that influence harbour porpoise distribution and activity. In summary, harbour porpoises are everywhere, and they go wherever they please...

What are you doing now ?

I am now Senior Analyst at Ocean Science Consulting Limited (OSC), a science and technology focussed company that specialises in marine mammal mitigation, noise measurement, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) surveys and imagery analysis, as well as performing research into these fields. I very much enjoy the fast-paced environment, and being involved in a diverse array of projects. Since I've been at the company I've been involved in many interesting projects and published on noise produced by drilling rigs, ROV data, and even bats! There is a lot more to come about my favourite harbour porpoises too!

What's the best advice you have been given ?

A fellow PhD student (Mariana Chimienti), told me 'It takes a long time to make a plan, and it takes a long time to realise that plan is not going to work', which I think is very good advice for any flailing student. We've all been there before... just keep swimming.

