



Dr Lucy Quinn
PhD • 2009 - 2013

What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

I studied my PhD on northern fulmar foraging in the non-breeding period. During this I got to carry out fieldwork in Orkney and Ireland tagging fulmars to see where they were going in the non-breeding period. I was also lucky enough to travel to Iceland to collect feathers from fulmars before carrying out lab work comparing stable isotopes in fulmar feathers across multiple colonies. I found sex differences in where fulmars were wintering, which may in turn have consequences for subsequent breeding success.

What are you doing now ?

Working as a marine ornithology advisor for NatureScot (formally Scottish Natural Heritage) means I provide policy advice to Scottish government on marine birds at both a protected site level and a wider strategic policy level. My work is really varied and includes a mixture of assessing impacts of marine development on marine birds; commissioning and managing research projects; developing conservation and management advice for Special Protection Areas (SPAs); developing wider seas protection for marine birds; working with others to implement climate change mitigation for marine birds; responding to media requests for scientific or policy input; and occasional site visits for seabird monitoring.

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

Being at the Lighthouse gave me a strong basis in the importance of collaboration and working in a team for a collective goal. Everyone has their own set of unique skills but it's not expected that you can know absolutely everything about your wide field of interest. It's important to lean on others when you need help and input on something and in turn, pay it forward and help others out when required. This ethos is something that I've carried into each of my subsequent jobs. As a wider point, sharing ideas and collaborating with others is crucial for solving the complex and challenging issues that the marine world faces today.

