



What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

I think I might be the odd one out here as unfortunately I never actually studied/worked at the Lighthouse – although I have visited it several times over the years. Instead, under the supervision of Professor Thompson (and my co-supervisor Dr Tom Jefferson), I undertook research on the population of Chinese white dolphins (*Sousa chinensis*) that reside in the waters of Hong Kong. My area of research was on photo-identification of, and association patterns between, individual dolphins. I also investigated individual dolphin preferences when it came to interaction with pair-trawlers (a common fishery in this area at that time).

What are you doing now ?

I work for Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), a global charity dedicated to the conservation and protection of whales and dolphins. My work is varied and certainly never dull. I lead our work on global small cetacean hunts, both legal and illegal, and work within global conservation agreements, for example the UN Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the International Whaling Commission (IWC). For the past 12 years I've been lucky enough to undertake photo-ID research on the Risso's (and Risso's x bottlenose hybrid) dolphins found around the Isle of Lewis, and wider Scottish waters.

What's the best advice you have been given ?

'Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.' – Dr Seuss.



Nicola Hodgins
Honours Student • 2001

