



What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

In Fall 2018, I did my Erasmus+ Internship in the Lighthouse. Building on my MSc studies, I have participated in cetacean acoustics studies, both working with CPODs, in stages from recovery through data download, and hydrophone vertical array deployments. i was also able to Join dolphin photo-ID surveys and help with the photo grading process. In addition to cetaceans, I also had opportunities to have a closer look at the pinniped studies at the Lighthouse; joining in on harbour seal counts and attended a grey seal necropsy.

What are you doing now ?

For my PhD studies, I switched my focus on paleoecology, specifically paleolimnology in the cold extreme environments. Currently I am working on the sediment cores from the Antarctic Peninsula, and Alpine regions uncovering biogeochemistry and diatom communities throughout the Holocene. With our ongoing projects, we are aiming to provide diatom surface calibration sets for these remote areas as well as pigment, elemental and isotope ratio stratigraphies to gain understanding of past climate change dynamics and its effect on the biota both in its natural course and due to anthropogenic impacts.

What was your best experience at the Lighthouse?

Spending 3 months in the Lighthouse, enabled me not only to participate in such a fruitful academic environment but also to observe ecology in action in the beautiful Scotland scene. The data I spend hours processing, becomes very precious to me when I experience the charm of diverse ecosystems, fascinating me as I collect the data in its raw form. That is why dolphin and seal photo-ID surveys with such amazing people hold great value and memories for me, always reminding me why I do what I do, even when the R console becomes all red.



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