



What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

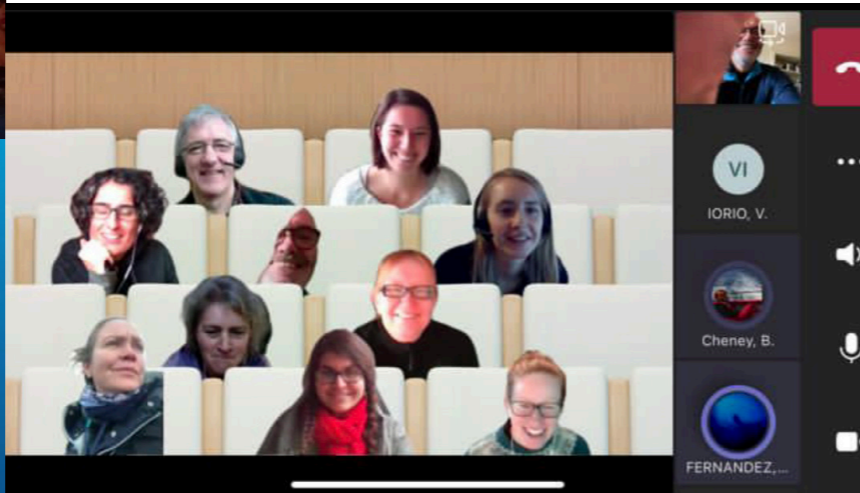
After completing the Applied Marine and Fisheries Ecology MSc course at the University of Aberdeen I had the opportunity to continue on as a Research Assistant for the Lighthouse. I extracted bottlenose dolphin bray and whistle data from Moray Firth Sound Trap recordings to support analyses by PhD students Oihane Fernandez and Virginia Iorio, studying foraging behaviours and signature whistles, respectively. Together, in collaboration with Osnabrück University, we began the process of training artificial intelligence (the ORCA-SPOT automatic detection model) to detect these call types.

What are you doing now ?

In my new role as a Marine Fisheries Advisor at the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) I support the provision of evidenced based conservation advice for fisheries management options in offshore UK Marine Protected Areas. New powers within the Fisheries Act 2020 came into force on the 23rd January 2021 and allow the UK to implement fisheries management measures in the offshore area (12 nm – 200 nm or median line) – the first proposed fisheries byelaws are for: Canyons Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ); Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation (SAC); Inner Dowsing, Race Bank, and North Ride SAC; and South Dorset MCZ.

What's the best advice you have been given ?

“You need to think about what you want to be doing in three years’ time” – Paul Thompson



Simone Prentice
Research Assistant • 2019 - 2020

