

The interview of the moment.... Emilie Praca !



What is your position and what are your main duties?

I'm Scientific Interest Grouping (GIS) Coordinator and in charge of the implementation and functioning of the GIS "Eolien en Mer".

The GIS will be an external and independent body that will validate the methodology planned to follow the efficacy of "Eviter, Réduire, Compenser" measures. It will also perform studies to improve knowledge on the marine environment of the eastern part of the Channel and communicate about the results obtained.

For now, I identify scientific experts that could take part in the GIS and define the governance of the structure.

When it will be operating, I will organize the work and relationship of its members and manage its budget.

What did you do before coming here?

For my PhD (call me Doctor please!:-D), I worked on the ecology of four cetacean species in the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea. It was a multidisciplinary approach mainly including biomarkers analysis, for which I did biopsies on sperm whales and pilot whales using a crossbow, and spatial habitat modelling. Then I worked as a biostatistician in Luxembourg (Centre de Recherche Public-Gabriel Lippmann), on the biodiversity of ponds. After that, I moved to Norwich in UK, to work at ECON Ecological Consultancy Ltd as a marine ecologist. I worked on the impact of several offshore wind farms on marine mammals and birds. I actually observed gulls and terns flying through and foraging in Sheringham Shoal OWF! Then I moved back to France and worked as a biostatistician at Genfit, a pharmaceutical company (if I can give you a healthy advice, avoid sugar!). And here I am!

What do you like in your company?

I really appreciate the kindness and craziness of my colleagues. It is nice to work on serious subjects in a very good atmosphere.

What is your best achievement since you arrived?

Well, I arrived two months ago so my achievements are under process, but I already survived 4 LEMS parties.

Something personal about you?

I love swimming! I did synchronized swimming for ten years during my schooling and later I won a national title at the British Synchronized Swimming Masters Championships in 2012 (even if we were two competitors in my age group:-D). So I really enjoy the outdoor swimming-pool of Dieppe!