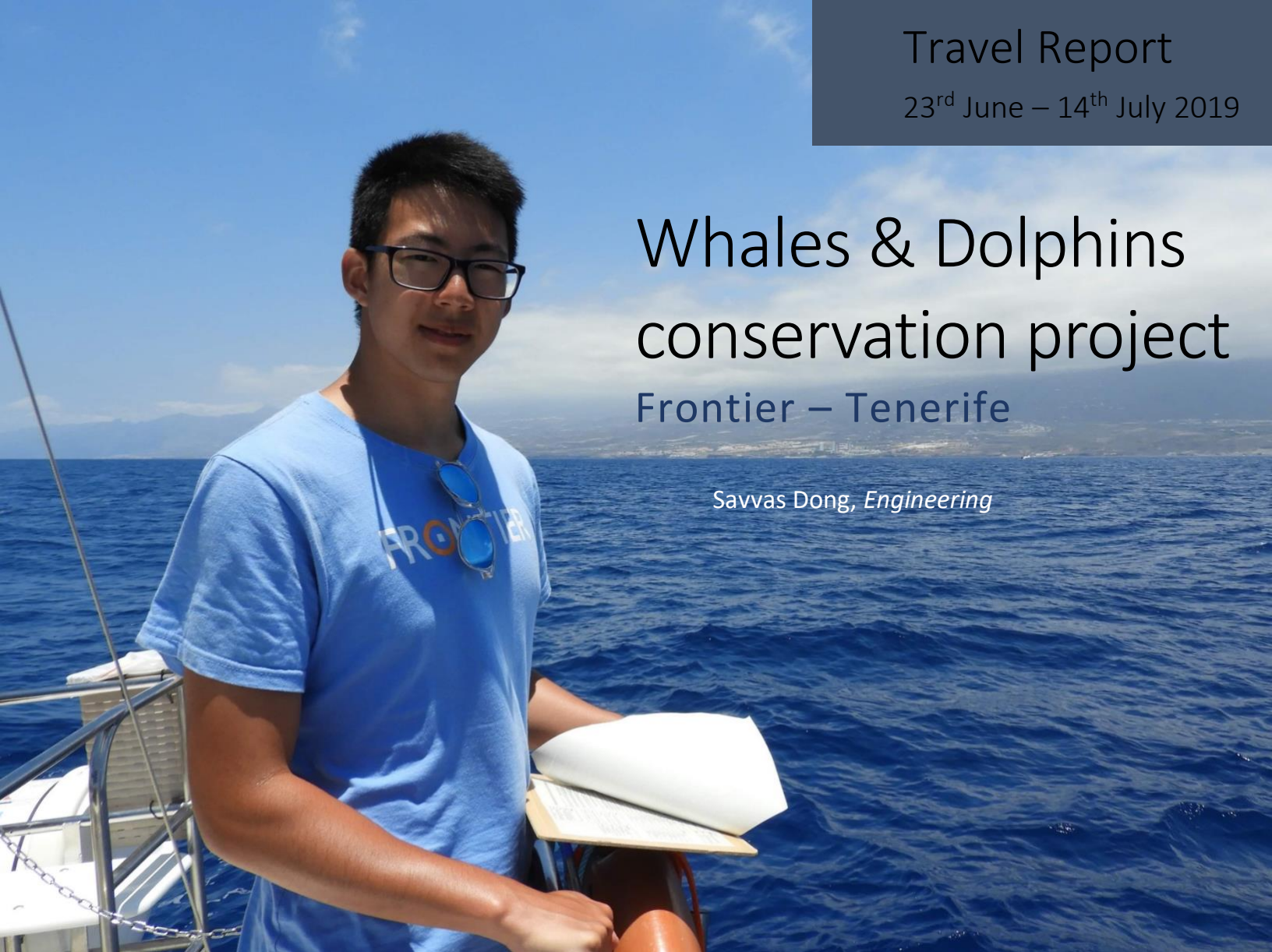


Whales & Dolphins conservation project Frontier – Tenerife

Savvas Dong, *Engineering*



Me above, looking out for whales and dolphins and data logging their behaviours.

As someone who has a passion in the ocean and environment conservation, this project with the Frontier organization is perfect for me to contribute towards the marine conservation efforts. Being an aerospace engineering student, this project also offered me a suitable insight into my individual project in third year, which is the study of aerodynamic effects of tubercles in pectoral fins of certain cetacean species – notably Humpback whales. Observing and learning about the maneuverability of cetaceans under certain behavioral states (i.e hunting), we can get an idea of how they might have used their fins to do certain tasks.

The main activity I partook was going on tourist whale watching boats and identifying the cetacean species, as well as noting down the number, location and their behavior on scene. I also went on a hill and did coastal survey, observing the boat traffic and the interaction of cetacean species with a nearby fish farm. Other times, we actively engaged in environmental conservation by doing beach clean ups and participating in community outreach activities, informing tourists and locals about the dangers of undisposed waste and bioaccumulation.

Overall, it was an amazing summer experience working with the Frontier organization. Excellent quality of training is provided to someone who have no prior experience with marine biology. If you're looking for some fantastic time working with like-minded people in marine environment conservation, then look no further than this.