

# Seasearch HIGHLIGHTS &

## Activities 2011...

Dive Show, Seasearch Talks & Dives



PLEASE REPORT TO:  
IRISH BASKING SHARK PROJECT  
www.baskingshark.ie  
Tel: 00353 87 904300

026

**MARCH** - The Seasearch season got off to a great start with Emmett Johnston from the Basking Shark Project giving a talk on basking sharks, sightings, taggings, and re-sightings. 99% of reported sightings were from divers. This summer, Seasearch divers have been again active in reporting all sightings from around the country. Seasearch had a stand at the CFT Dive show in March. People stopped by for a chat and to find out what was planned for the year. Many took part in the Seasearch quiz. Ger Lanigan and Ronan Scott were the two lucky winners of the new Seasearch Seaweed guide.

Adrienne Mockler stood down as National Seasearch Coordinator after two very successful years getting Seasearch up and running in Ireland. Well done, Adrienne.



**MAY** - Two Seasearch Talks & Dives were held, in Wicklow and in Dublin. Nigel Motyer gave a fantastic talk and slide show on an introduction to Irish Marine Life. The talk was hosted by Wicklow SAC and a shore dive was planned afterwards, - unfortunately the dive didn't go ahead due to bad weather.



Cormac Lowth gave a great talk on the wrecks of Dublin Bay in the Curragh Rooms, Sandycove, with a local shore dive organised by the Curragh Sub Aqua Club.



## Seasearch A Talk & Dive

**JUNE** - Eight Seasearch Regional Coordinators volunteered to Organise Seasearch diving all around the coast of Ireland from Donegal around to Dublin. The dives were advertised on the CFT website and were open to everyone to come along and participate in.



**SLIGO / MAYO** - Richard Thorn

**GALWAY** - Tony O'Callaghan

**CLARE** - Tadhg O'Brien

**KERRY** - Shirley Baker

**CORK** - Mary Hunter with Tim Butter

**WEXFORD / WATERFORD** - Ken Maye

**DUBLIN** - James Lynch



Every dive can be a Seasearch dive



# Seasearch HIGHLIGHTS &

## Activities 2011..

Observer Courses-Dingle and Sligo

Dingle Oceanworld Aquarium



Cathedral Rocks, Inis ná Bro, Blasket Islands, Co. Kerry

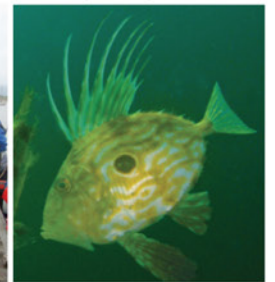


Blasket Islands, Co. Kerry



**JULY** - Two Seasearch Observer courses were held in Dingle and Sligo. Chris Wood, U.K. Seasearch Coordinator ran both courses, in Dingle Oceanworld Aquarium and in the Institute of Technology, Sligo. Qualifying dives were held off the Blasket Islands facilitated by Dingle Marina Dive Centre and at Mullaghmore hosted by Sligo SAC. Congratulations to Maureen Fitzgerald, Mary O'Donohoe, Richard Thorn, Suzanne Thorn, Sean Staunton, Jim Muldowney, Joe O' Murchadha, Ethel Geoghegan and Ray Furlong on becoming Seasearch Observers in 2011.

Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo



Institute of Technology, Sligo

Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo

John Dory, Mullaghmore

**JULY DIVES** - Tadhg O'Brien with Dr. John Breen ran a workshop and two boat dives from Doolin, Co. Clare. Rory O'Callaghan gave a talk on salt water lagoons followed by a shore dive in the Salt Lake, Co. Galway. Tony O'Callaghan organized the dive. Ken Maye ran two dives in Hook Head Co. Wexford. Kilkenny SAC hosted the boat dive from Slade Harbour and Ken ran a second shore dive from Hook lighthouse, in gorgeous July sunshine.

Filling in forms in the sun, Doolin, Co. Clare



Sea squirt, Doolin, Co. Clare



After the dive, Cliften, Co. Galway



Salt Lake, Co. Galway



Organ pipe worm reef, Salt Lake, Co. Galway



Sunshine, Hook lighthouse, Co. Wexford



Slade Harbour, Co. Wexford



3 Mile Rock, Co. Wexford



Every dive can be a Seasearch dive



# Seasearch HIGHLIGHTS &

## Activities 2011..

Seasearch Dives August & September

Dive brief, Howth Harbour



Filling in forms, Howth Yacht Club



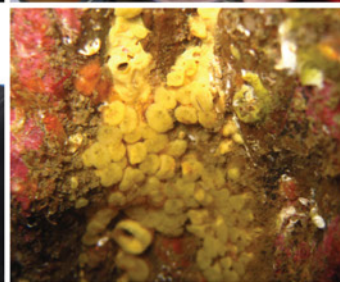
Velvet swimming crab, Lambay Island



Howth Harbour



Diving from Oysterhaven, Co. Cork



Boring Sponge, Oysterhaven, Co. Cork



After the dive, Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo



Bad viz, Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo

**AUGUST DIVES** - Seasearch boat dives were organized in Brandon Co. Kerry, Howth Co. Dublin, Oysterhaven Co. Cork and Mullaghmore Co. Sligo. Unfortunately the Brandon dives had to be cancelled but thanks to Shirley Baker for organizing the day. James Lynch ran two dives from Howth, diving Lambay Island and Ireland's Eye. Tim Butter organized two boat dives from Oysterhaven in Cork the same day. Richard Thorn arranged two boat dives in Mullaghmore Co. Sligo, the visibility wasn't great but everyone enjoyed the day.

Ben Bulbin, Co. Sligo



Seasearch divers & Sligo SAC



Common sole



Crosshaven, Co. Cork



Diving from Crosshaven, Co. Cork



Crosshaven, Co. Cork



Shore walk Coral Strand, Co. Galway



Rough seas, Coral Strand

**SEPTEMBER DIVES** - Mary Hunter ran two boat dives with Daunt SAC from Crosshaven in Co. Cork. Richard Thorn and Sligo SAC hosted two boat dives from Enniscrone Co. Sligo. A seaweed workshop with Dr. Maeve Edwards, shore walk and dive was planned for Coral Strand Co. Galway, unfortunately only the shore walk identifying species went ahead due to bad weather - high winds and rough seas.



Every dive can be a Seasearch dive



# Seasearch HIGHLIGHTS &

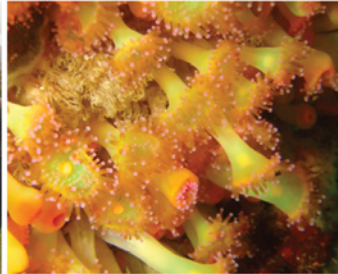
## Activities 2011..

### Anemone Workshop Weekend

Anemone Workshop, Renvyle, Co. Galway



Jewel anemone, Co. Galway



Getting ready, Renvyle, Co. Galway



Cluster anemone, Killary Harbour



Red fingers, Killary Co. Galway



Holding off



Chris Wood

**ANEMONE WORKSHOP WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER** - Chris Wood was back in Ireland to run a great Anemone & Soft Coral Workshop Weekend in Renvyle, Co. Galway. Interesting classroom sessions were held in the mornings followed by afternoon dives on rocky reef and soft sediment in the fjord. Despite the windy conditions, Scubadive West put Seasearch divers on the sites and everyone enjoyed the weekend and both dives.

The Burren, Co. Clare



New Quay drift dive



Malinbeg Harbour



After the dive Malinbeg



**OCTOBER & NOVEMBER DIVES** - Tony O'Callaghan organized a shore drift dive in New Quay, Co. Clare. Timed to perfection, the drift between Aughinish Island and New Quay, brings you along the coast and back to the same spot. Richard Thorn, Sligo SAC and Seasearch divers had two very enjoyable shore dives from Malinbeg Harbour.

**THANKS** - to all who filled in forms, participated in Seasearch dives, organized dive days, regional coordinators, clubs who hosted boat dives, divers who ran workshops, people who sent photographs, volunteered venues, dive centres who facilitated events, speakers who gave great talks and all who gave their time and energy to Seasearch Ireland this year. It was a great year. Enjoy your Christmas break and wishing you all the best for 2012.

Happy Seasearching,

*Deirdre*



*Every dive can be a Seasearch dive*

contact us at [seasearchireland@gmail.com](mailto:seasearchireland@gmail.com), check out Seasearch Ireland activities on the CFT homepage [www.cft.ie](http://www.cft.ie), the Seasearch site [www.seasearch.co.uk](http://www.seasearch.co.uk) or on Seasearch Irelands' Facebook Page