



Thanks to everyone who contributed to surveys in 2011, despite some difficult weather over this season we have collected more records than in 2010 which is down to a great effort from volunteers. We have managed to survey new sites and collect information on unusual species.

### ***Photography Competition***



Winners of the underwater photography competition 2011 with judge [Nigel Motyer](#) who gave a fascinating talk on adventures as an underwater photography for Seasearch volunteers in October. Winning image of a tompot blenny on the Alastor by Noel Black. Prizes were generously sponsored by [Aquaholics](#) and [DV Diving](#). Winning images are on the website [www.seasearch.co.uk/northernireland/](http://www.seasearch.co.uk/northernireland/). Thanks to all who entered, the images are great and many will feature on the website in the future, a great chance to showcase the valuable marine life we have in Northern Ireland.

## Training

This season we ran an Observer course for beginners in Seasearch, a Marine Life Identification weekend and a seaweed workshop. Congratulations to Barbara and Robert Irvine and Bertie Gault who all completed the Observer qualifications.



If you would like to get started in Seasearch the first stage is to complete an Observer Course. You need to be a BSAC Sports or PADI rescue diver with at least 25 sea dives, with at least 10 cold water dives under your belt. Email for more information.

## Diving

During 2011 we had organised dives in Carlingford Lough, Strangford Lough, Rathlin and the North Coast. Seasearchers also submitted records from their own dives.



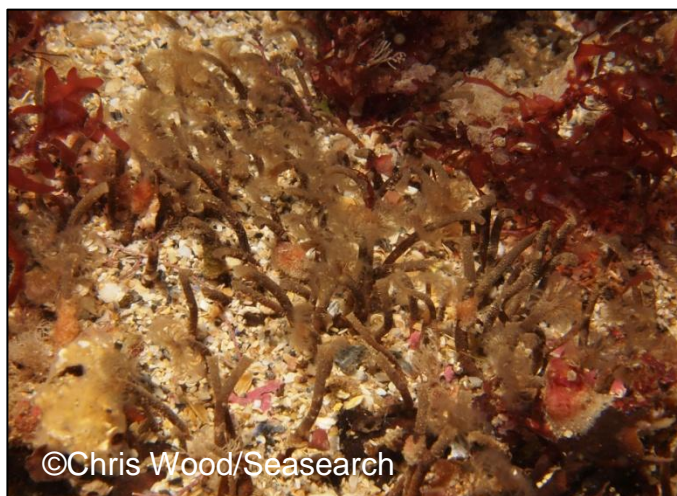
We dived with Newry SAC in Carlingford Lough which is an area which is not well surveyed and we got a shore and boat dive completed. As well as interesting marine life Seasearchers recorded litter including a toilet at Greencastle!

## Interesting records from 2011



The red blenny, also known as the Portuguese blenny, have been recorded several times on the north coast by Seasearchers at Carrick-a-rede and the Templemore at Ballycastle.

These tube worms were photographed on limestone at Dunluce on the north coast. They couldn't be identified locally but an expert at the National Museums of Wales was able to confirm that they were *Pseudopotamilla reniformis*.



If you have any good images of marine life that you are willing to donate for our updated website and other publicity please email them in, all credit on photos will be given. Thanks!

A report on 2011 surveys will be available on the website in Spring 2012. All validated Seasearch data is available free through the NBN gateway <http://data.nbn.org.uk/>. Thanks to all our divers and supporters in 2011, we are awaiting news of funding for April 2012 and beyond. If successful a programme for 2012 dives will be released as soon as possible. In the meantime any dive can be a Seasearch dive so keep your records coming in – they can all make a difference!

If you would like more information or a talk for your club please get in touch with me, Charmaine Beer [seasearchni@gmail.com](mailto:seasearchni@gmail.com) or check [www.seasearch.co.uk/northernireland](http://www.seasearch.co.uk/northernireland)

Check out Seasearch Ireland [www.cft.ie](http://www.cft.ie) or the national Seasearch pages <http://www.seasearch.co.uk/> the for other dives that you can take part in.



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