

newsletter Seasearch SPRING 2010

What's been happening...

At last spring has come, water temperature has started to rise and Seasearch has been busy. The first Observer Course of 2010 was held in Howth on 24th / 25th of April. Dr Claire Goodwin, one of the founders of Seasearch NI, ran a very enjoyable course.



Galway Atlantaquairia provided a wonderful venue for our second Observer Course - where else could we see a 7- day old skate. Sunday's diving took place at the Coral Strand in the sun. Congratulations to Les & Marie Grennan Seasearch Ireland's first Observers of 2010, they qualified on the Galway course.



Chris Wood, UK Seasearch Co-ordinator, ran Ireland's first Surveyor course in Mulroy Bay over the May Bank Holiday weekend. This course is aimed at divers who've completed the Observer course or have a background in marine or environmental science. Seasearch Ireland is now able to sign off qualifying dives ... one step nearer to having our own instructors. Divers managed to see some rare and iconic species - Basking Sharks, Thornback Rays and Flame Shells to name a few of the exciting finds that weekend!



Seasearch *A Talk & Dive*

May - Dr Noeleen Smyth gave a very entertaining talk on Ireland's invasive species at Howth followed by a Seasearch dive to Ireland's Eye.

May - Hook SAC was the venue for Nigel Motyer's fantastic talk and slide show on Irish marine life. Ray Furlong organised a Seasearch dive afterwards from Slade Harbour, Co. Wexford.

May - Cormac Lowth gave a talk on the Bolivar and wrecks of Dublin Bay in aid of the RNLi, with a local dive afterwards organised by Dalkey Scubadivers - unfortunately the weather didn't allow us dive on the wreck of the Bolivar.



Every dive can be a Seasearch dive

What's on next...

These are some of the Seasearch courses and dives planned for the rest of the summer, remember to check the CFT website www.cft.ie for the latest Seasearch dives and event updates.

Observer Course with Kilkenny SAC	17th & 18th July
Sat classroom day will take place in Kilkenny SAC's clubhouse - Sunday diving in Kilmore Quay / Dunmore East.	
Surveyor Course, Kilrush, Co. Clare	14th & 15th August
Thanks to National Biodiversity Data Centre for sponsoring this course – contact mdoyle@biodiversity.ie	
Nudibranch and Photo workshop in Donegal	21st & 22nd August
This course will be given by Dr. Bernard Picton from the Ulster Museum.	



Seasearch diving dates...

Seasearch diving, Ballycastle, Co Antrim	12th & 13th June
with Claire Goodwin, Seasearch NI. Claire plans to dive Rathlin's walls. It's possible to come for one or two days - cost is £26 per day - 2 dives daily. Contact: claire.goodwin@gmail.com to book your place.	
Irish marine life, Seasearch talk & dive, Howth	19th June
Nigel Motyer will give a talk on Irish marine life in Howth with a Seasearch dive afterwards. There will be a BBQ on Ireland's Eye with the CFT snorkel rally. The day is organised by Steve Singleton, NSO. All welcome.	
Deep water mysteries, Seasearch talk & dive, Dublin	26th June
Stewart Andrews and Ian Lawler will give the talk. A wreck dive afterwards is planned. Venue is CFT office, Dun Laoghaire.	
Jellyfish, Sunfish & Turtles, Seasearch talk & dive, Dublin	3rd July
Tom Doyle will give a talk on the Ecojel project, tracking jellyfish, sunfish and turtles. www.jellyfish.ie . We'll run a Seasearch dive afterwards.	
Seasearch Workshop and diving, Doolin Co. Clare	17th & 18th July
John Breen will present a workshop on Clare Marine Life at Lahinch Aquarium - the day will include a tour of the Aquarium. Tadhg O'Brien (Burren SAC) will run Seasearch diving on Sunday.	
Seasearch diving, Oysterhaven, Cork Harbour	24th & 25th July
Anne Ferguson & Daunt SAC are planning a Seasearch weekend to include a talk and dive on The Aud.	



Every dive can be a Seasearch dive

contact us at seasearchireland@cft.ie. Feedback welcome. Keep those records coming in.

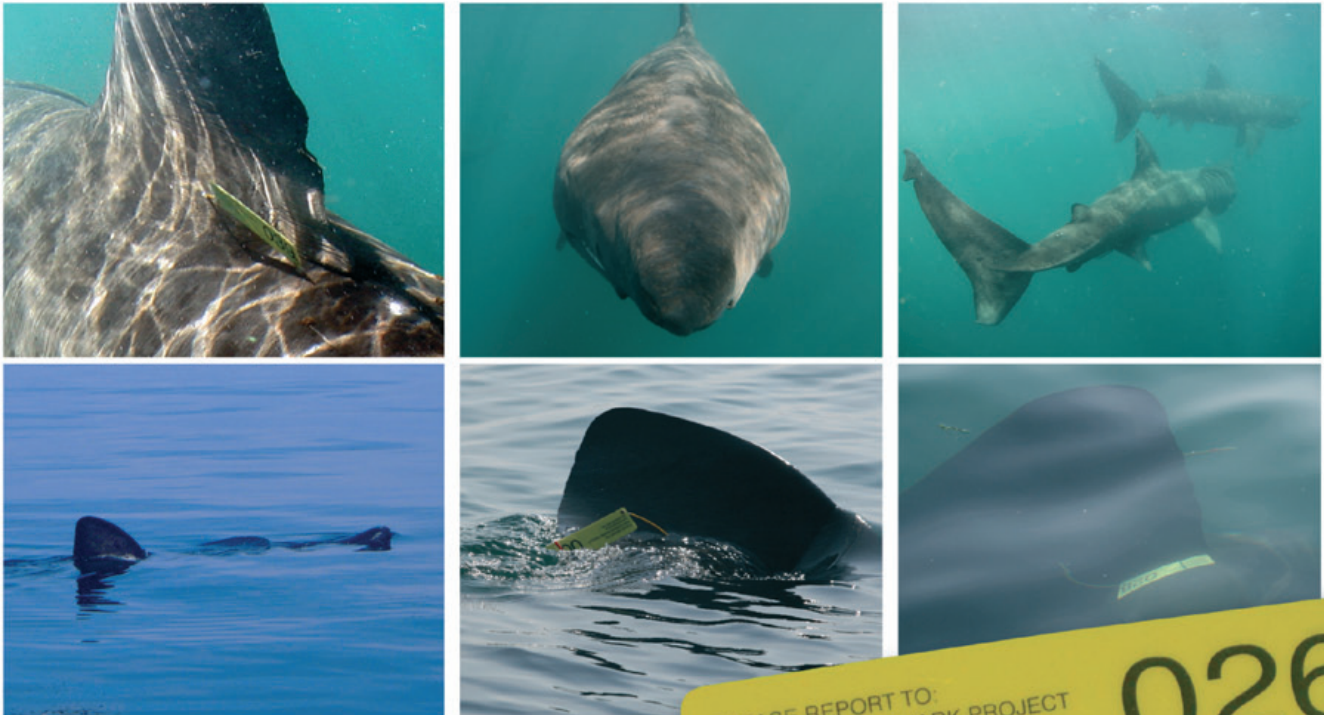
BASKING SHARKS 2010

Seasearch Newsletter

Shark Watch, what to look out for..

Divers taking part on the recent Seasearch Surveyor course in Donegal were treated to an encounter with one of Ireland's most iconic marine species, the Basking Shark. The second largest fish in the world, these gigantic creatures are docile in nature despite their size. After the encounter Seasearch made contact with the Irish Basking Shark Project and reported their sighting.

The Basking Shark Project share many common characteristics with Seasearch, they are both newly-formed (2009), under-funded and of course have a deep affinity with Ireland's marine environment. Like us, they feel the need to raise awareness of, and contribute pro-actively to, marine habitat protection.



In 2009 the team tagged over 100 sharks with coloured numbered tags, (red for Cork, green for Kerry and yellow for Donegal). They received some interesting re-sightings of the tags including a number from the western Isles of

Scotland. 99% of the reports were by divers. They believe divers are a vital link in their research as only people in the water can spend sufficient time close to the animals to gain a positive visual recording of tag numbers. This information is invaluable and provides distance travelled over time and also helps them understand site fidelity. The more records received the more powerful the information will become and the greater chance these magnificent animals have of gaining protection in Irish waters. If you see a Basking Shark please report it online at www.baskingshark.ie or via text to **Emmett (north west) @ 087 286 7055** or **Lucy (south west) @ 087 7850929**. The Basking Shark Project want to build further links with divers around Ireland's coast so if people are interested in the project or would like more information they can contact the project co-ordinator Emmett Johnston on the number above or via the website.

PLEASE REPORT TO:
IRISH BASKING SHARK PROJECT
www.baskingshark.ie
Tel: 00353 87 8545450

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