

September 16th 2007: Dive Trip to Motonau

We were not expecting the day to be the best. A forecasted Southerly expected by mid morning and a strong Norwest that was to be helping calm the sea, but both had failed to materialize. We met at The Peg (the Belfast pub) at 7:30 am and decided the only way to determine for sure was to take the drive to Motonau so after a bit of shuffling the dive gear around, eight of us set off to Motonau with three boats between us. We launched without a hitch just after high tide. Sarah and David with Richard, Larry and Shane in John's boat, and Robyn was in the third boat with me.

We located a good dive spot without too much trouble, and I stayed onboard to keep a live boat while everyone else got their dive gear on and went into the water. The visibility was better than we had expected, about 5 metres in most places. Several crayfish were caught and with everyone back onboard we headed to a second dive spot. The Norwest had began, and although it wasn't too bad, it seemed John felt the divers on Richard's boat would benefit from his assistance sheltering them from the wind. John determined this was best accomplished with a constant spray of water on the divers, and it appears they didn't mind the wind after all. On the way to the second spot we found another reef, so after a little discussion, boat people were arranged and several divers re-entered the water. Crays were healthy in appearance but some were still in berry, and since we still had not caught our limit of crayfish a few keen divers geared up for another dive. Having caught our quota (with a few oysters thrown into the bargain) we headed back.

Under Richard's expert eye, getting the boats back onto their trailers was an uneventful operation. We had had no mishaps and no disasters, no breathtaking sightings of whales or dolphins but everyone agreed that as well as the diving itself, it was all the little things – weather, visibility, tall stories and good company – that made for a good day out and a reminder of why we all continue to love this sport. A special thanks to Richard and John for the use of their boats, as without them the dive would not have happened...

David Moore
Trips Coordinator

