

## MARINE HIGHLIGHTS 2010

### GREY TRIGGERFISH

by Chris Mandry

For my second dive of the day on 25 July 2010, I wanted to try to photograph seals. Not being much of a photographer and only using a compact camera I thought a dive by the wreck of the *Carmine Filomena* near Mouse Island would be ideal.

The dive took place at 16:40, with a water temperature of 16°C and at a depth of 16.3 m. I was surprised to see two triggerfish swimming around a large piece of wreckage. After a while they adopted station amongst the wreckage and stayed there for over 15 minutes. They were very passive and not fazed by me and my buddy, allowing both of us to take many photos (see colour plate 1). This was my second sighting of triggerfish at Lundy – the first being off Jenny's Cove in the 1990s. I have also seen large numbers of triggerfish previously, in 2008 at Greenciff Rocks, between Westward Ho! and Clovelly.

### SPIDER CRABS AND EEL

by Paula Ferris

Coastwise North Devon members visited Lundy on a day-trip, organised by Mavis Symons, on 11 August 2010 to snorkel and explore the shore for the island's best-known marine life. An eel was an unexpected find, uncommon on Lundy according to warden Nicola Saunders, despite being regularly seen on the mainland shore. Indeed one was found during a Coastwise rock-pool ramble at Combe Martin only the following week.

The group were hoping to see Devonshire cup corals and scarlet and gold star corals, and duly did, but only after negotiating their way round piles of moulting spider crabs and their discarded carapaces, a foot or more deep in places! It was whilst looking through the spider crab debris, that I grasped what I thought to be a sturdy kelp stipe and was startled to discover that it was an eel! Malcolm Roberts was quick with the camera and managed to take a photograph before the eel made its escape (see colour plate 1).

Members were interested to note that despite the proximity and similarities between Lundy's sheltered shore and parts of North Devon's Voluntary Marine Conservation Area, there were some highly visible differences, notably the dominance of algae cover on Lundy, particularly thongweed and furbelows, both rarely seen on neighbouring mainland shores.



Above: Grey triggerfish (*Balistes capriscus*), Carmine Filomena, 25 July 2010. © Chris Mandry  
Below: Common eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), Devil's Kitchen, 11 August 2010. © Malcolm Roberts

