



Fantastic Fishing

A Seafood Career for Me:
ALife Fact Sheet No. 4

More Than Just Catching Seafood!

Today's fishers operate in a changing environment, with attention to food quality and safety and meeting strict environmental standards more important than ever.

People working in the wildcatch sector of the seafood industry operate on fishing vessels that vary from small one person boats to larger ocean-going vessels with crews of up to fifteen. All crew members must work as a team, sometimes under difficult conditions. Fishing voyages can last from one day to several weeks or longer.

Fishers perform a variety of tasks and use a variety of fishing techniques depending on the species being caught and the habitat.

What Sort of Jobs are There?

Deckhand and/or Deckhand Assistant

This is the starting point of a career in commercial fishing and a "deckie's" work could involve helping to set lines, nets or pots, operating winches, sorting, filleting, skinning, and packing the catch. Most deckhand work requires a good level of physical fitness.

Senior Deckhand - Fishing Operations

This person can operate a small fishing vessel or provide support to the skipper of a large vessel. In addition to performing all the duties of a deckhand, such as setting nets, lines and pots, this person has responsibility for watch keeping and navigation. Many people at this level would hold a Coxswain's ticket or licence.*

Master Fisherman

The master fisherman is generally in charge of the vessel which can be worth anything from a few thousand dollars to a few million dollars. The work involves maritime skills such as navigating and steering a vessel and fishing skills such as locating, catching and storing fish. They will also have considerable responsibility for the safety of the crew and the vessel. Many people at this level will hold a Skipper's ticket or licence. *

Fishing Operations Manager

This person is likely to work on a large fishing vessel or for a large company. They will have the overall responsibility for the vessel and the crew and for the success of the fishing voyage.

Marine Engine Driver (A "MED")

A MED is in charge of machinery and engines on seagoing fishing vessels. The work involves a wide variety of maintenance tasks and training includes diesel or refrigeration mechanics combined with time at sea. *

Fishing Charter Operator

As well as having skills in fishing and handling fishing vessels, charter operators must also be able to plan a fishing charter trip and attract and keep their customers happy! Charter operators may operate short half day or day trips, or specialise in longer trips lasting several days (or even weeks).

**You should contact your local Marine Authority for information about these tickets.*



AUSTRALIAN
SEAFOOD
COOPERATIVE
RESEARCH CENTRE



Qualifications

Vocational qualifications in fishing operations are available from Certificate I to Diploma and there are two qualifications for Fishing Charter Operations - Certificate III and Diploma.

For more details, jump on to the Seafood CRC's website at www.seafoodcrc.com and hit the link called "Seafood Training and Qualifications" in the ALife tab or contact a Seafood CRC Participant or your local Industry Training Advisory Body.