

# CREW ARE LIKE SECOND FAMILY AIMING FOR SKIPPER

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STEPHEN RICHARDSON

**STEPHEN RICHARDSON** wanted to be a deep-sea fisherman from as far back as he can remember. Three years ago, at the age of 16, he made his first move into the industry and has not looked back since.

Stephen gives his aunty credit for the heads up about the famed Westport Deepsea Fishing School. He made the move and spent six months' sea time and four weeks' class time working towards getting his deck hand ticket. He works to a six-weeks-on, six-weeks-off schedule on board Sealord's factory trawler *Rehua*, based out of Nelson. He spends much of his time catching hoki off the South Island coast.

Stephen says that the holidays are something to love when you are a fisherman. The money is pretty good too, especially as you can't spend it when you are out at sea.

"Sealord is a really good company to work for. It is good for young people. I am not very good with money, so it's great they pay you while you are at sea and while you are at home," says Stephen.

"Your regular payments stay the same, which is awesome, and you can earn good bonuses depending on the tonnage of the catch.

"When I am at sea, the thing I like most about it is the deck work. I like going outside with the crew, hauling in the fish, mending nets and all that sort of stuff. It is fun and I enjoy it.

"Working with all the crew on board and even being downstairs in the factory is awesome. It is like being with your second family."

Career prospects in deep-sea fishing are looking good for Stephen.

"My dream is to be a skipper but my next role I want to get to is bosun, then after that it is second mate, first mate and then skipper. I would also like to own my own home in three years."

The biggest challenge he faced when he first went to sea was a lack of sleep. But he says it is all about getting into a routine and sticking to it, so you do not get fatigued.

Stephen grew up in the eastern Bay of Plenty town of Murupara. He went to Murupara Area School, leaving after Year 11 to go to Westport Deepsea Fishing School, after taking English, Science, Woodwork and Maths as his main subjects.

Deep-sea fishing as a career could suit any school leaver as it is all about having the right mindset, says Stephen.

"If you put your mind to it, you can do it. If you don't, then it is not the job for you.

"The key to doing well is to follow instructions, have the right attitude, work hard and if you do that you can achieve your goals and go a long way in the industry."



## KEY FACTS



- **STEPHEN RICHARDSON** WENT TO **WESTPORT DEEPSEA FISHING SCHOOL**, WHERE HE ACHIEVED HIS **DECK HAND TICKET**.
- HE WORKS AS A **DEEP-SEA FISHERMAN** ON BOARD **SEALORD'S** FACTORY TRAWLER **REHUA**, WHICH IS BASED IN **NELSON**.
- **STEPHEN** RECOMMENDS A CAREER IN THE **FISHING INDUSTRY** FOR **SCHOOL LEAVERS** AND SAYS THAT **ANYBODY CAN SUCCEED** IN THIS SECTOR IF THEY HAVE THE **RIGHT MINDSET**.



For more information on career opportunities in the fishing industry, visit [www.sealord.com/nz/careers](http://www.sealord.com/nz/careers), [www.seafood.co.nz/careers](http://www.seafood.co.nz/careers) and [www.deepsea.co.nz](http://www.deepsea.co.nz)