

# BENEFITS AND GOOD PEOPLE

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## WHERE CREW BECOMES FAMILY

**"You can't spend your money while you are out at sea," says NATHAN CLIFFORD.**

The ability to save lots of money while he is away at sea is one of the best features of his job for the 17-year-old.

Nathan has been with Sealord for nearly 12 months and is one of the younger deep-sea fishers working for the company.

He is a Fisher C factory hand on board *FV Tokatu*, the newest vessel in the impressive Sealord fleet. *FV Tokatu* was built in 2018 and is the first deep-sea trawler commissioned for the New Zealand fishery since Sealord's *Rehua* in 1997.

It is designed to fish all species, including mackerel, southern blue whiting and squid, as well as the prime target of hoki.

Nathan has his family to thank for giving him some good advice about deep-sea fishing as a career.

"I never really planned to become a fisherman until my grandad and uncle recommended it to me. My grandad thought it would be a good job for me, and my uncle helped me get a job on the *Tokatu*."

He says the best things about working for Sealord is having equal time at sea and back home on shore leave, while he is getting a year-round salary.

"Apart from the fact you can't spend your money out at sea, you get good time off, get paid on trip off and meet a lot of good people from all around the country.

"Also, the crew looks out for you, so it is like a home away from home."

Nathan works a six-weeks on, six-weeks off roster although depending on the weather and catch available it can sometimes be longer or a little shorter. When he is at sea, he works a split shift of eight-hours, which is followed by a break of eight hours.

The long shore leave is ideal to relax and catch up with friends and doing stuff he likes, including playing rugby.

Nathan says the biggest challenge when he first started with Sealord was being away from friends and family.

But the future looks bright in the industry for young fishermen like Nathan.

He has set himself some goals to achieve over the next few years.

"First, I want to get my deck-hand ticket then go through the ranks and one day become a skipper."

Nathan went to Buller High School in Westport. In his final school year, Year 11, he took PE, Woodwork, Maths, Science, Cooking and English.

His advice for school leavers who want to get into deep-sea fishing is to have the right attitude and to work hard within a team.

"A good attitude is everything in this job, plus good hand-eye coordination would help a lot."

Future job prospects for school leavers with Sealord look good as reliable, friendly crew members are always needed.



### KEY FACTS



- **NATHAN CLIFFORD** WORKS FOR **SEALORD** AS A **FISHER C FACTORY HAND** ON **FV TOKATU**.
- HE WORKS A **SIX-WEEKS ON, SIX-WEEKS OFF ROSTER**. WHEN HE IS AT SEA, HE WORKS A **SHIFT OF EIGHT HOURS**, FOLLOWED BY A **BREAK OF EIGHT HOURS**.
- **NATHAN** RECOMMENDS **SCHOOL LEAVERS INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY** HAVE A **GOOD ATTITUDE AND GOOD HAND-EYE COORDINATION**.



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