

# A HAPPY LIFESTYLE AT SEA

## CAREERS WITH SEALORD

writer **FIONA TERRY**

photography **TIM CUFF**

It hadn't been **JAYDEN RUTLEDGE'S** intention to make fishing a career but after a trip out as a crew member on a Sealord boat during the summer holidays, he loved it so much he decided to take it up full-time.

So instead of returning to Year 13, Jayden began working his way up through the ranks and earning money to save in the process.

"Financially it's a comfortable position to be sitting in, even as a trainee," says Jayden, who recently celebrated his 18th birthday at sea and was made a special cake by the cook.

One of the other benefits of fishing as a career is the amount of time off between sailings.

"I'm on the factory freezer boat *FV Ocean Dawn* and we're usually away at sea for five to six weeks at a time. It's full-on, working eight hours on shift then eight hours off, but time really just flies.

"Then when we get back to land and the other crew takes over, I have five or six weeks to do whatever I want. For the first few days, I do a whole lot of nothing but then I love catching up with everyone and with the family especially. I sometimes go on my mountain bike or work on my car – I have heaps of spare time to do anything."

Jayden's first trip on the boat involved packing fish in the factory.

"Halfway through I started helping the freezerman, which was quite hard work with lots of lifting. I worked in that role for a few trips and then I started getting trained to be a freezerman, which is what I'm doing now and I love it.

"I work with my freezer helper to sort the boxes into groups in the factory. I label them then we send them down a slide to the freezer and then go down there to stack them all."

Jayden is spoilt for choice when deciding what is the best thing about life at sea.

"I love the work environment. Everyone's really good with each other, like one big family. My dad is first mate on the boat so after my shift, if there's a chance I'll go and have a yarn with him too.

"There's heaps of card games during down time and board games but otherwise it's just friendly conversations really – we all just have laughs."

Jayden shares a cabin with three others but two of them are on the other shift. There are two bunk beds, a TV, bathroom, couch and Wi-Fi. The food gets a big thumbs-up too.

In Year 12 at Nelson College, Jayden studied Level 2 English, Maths, Outdoor Education, Art, Mechanical Engineering and Industrial Engineering. Those last two subjects have come in especially handy from time to time, he says.

Jayden's just finished his fourth trip, where he saw whales and big pods of dolphins.

"I've seen the most amazing scenes – it's pretty special."



“I love the work environment. Everyone's really good with each other, like one big family.”

**JAYDEN  
RUTLEDGE**



### KEY FACTS



- **JAYDEN RUTLEDGE** WORKS FOR **SEALORD** ON THE FREEZER FACTORY BOAT, **FV OCEAN DAWN**.
- HE HAS JUST FINISHED HIS FOURTH TRIP AT SEA WHERE HE WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE WHALES AND PODS OF DOLPHINS.
- **JAYDEN** WENT TO **NELSON COLLEGE**. IN **YEAR 12** HE STUDIED **LEVEL 2 ENGLISH, MATHS, OUTDOOR ED, ART, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING**.

### ONLINE



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