



ELLIOT UNDERWOOD

ENGINEER | SOUTHERN OCEAN FLEET

6 YEARS IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY



HOW DID YOU START WORKING WITH AUSTRAL FISHERIES?

"I was 22, needed money, and saw there were jobs going in the Northern Prawn Fishery. I started as a deckhand on a prawn trawler for Austral, and became really interested in how the boats work.

I was always interested in science and learning how things work so I suppose the engineering is a follow up from that."

ELLIOT'S TICKETS & QUALIFICATIONS

- Engineer Class 3
- STCW-95
- First Aid



WHAT DOES YOUR CURRENT ROLE INVOLVE ON ANY GIVEN DAY?

"I work directly with the other engineers on the boat. Daily tasks include routine maintenance and walking around taking temperature and pressure readings and gauging the operation of equipment onboard to make sure everything is working correctly.

It's a very dynamic and hands-on job working on these vessels - no two days are ever the same and we've always got different jobs to do.

When things break down as they inevitably do, you tend to find you'll always learn something in the process of fixing it."

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG PEOPLE ASPIRING TO ENTER THE FISHING INDUSTRY?

"Be brave and give it a go! The old saying that it builds character is definitely true. Never be too firm in your beliefs - getting pressured by friends, family and the education system into getting a degree or trade and locking yourself into a career doesn't have to be the only way forward."



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