

# Just the Job

## Information Sheet

### Job title

Deckhand on a fishing boat

### Job description

Fishing deckhands have many jobs on a vessel. They may include some or all of the following:

- shoot (cast out) and haul in the net, lines or pots
- operate the winches
- process and pack fish
- stack cases of fish
- mend the nets, lines and pots
- splice ropes and wires
- may keep watch over the vessel in the absence of a first mate or skipper.

### Qualifications required

There are no specific qualifications required for entry into the job but you will need to gain qualifications along the way to progress your career.

The fishing deckhand qualification is preferred by some employers and is a good place to start once you have done some time at sea.

### Training costs

Training costs on the job are generally met by the employer and they will often also assist in the cost of training that can not be carried out in the workplace.

### Location of job

Most of the job is carried out on the vessel though you may have work to do on the wharf to help ready the vessel for sailing.

### Career path

After completing the appropriate ticket (seafood qualification) fishing deckhands can become leading hands or bosuns, supervising a team of workers. Because this occupation provides a good overview of how a fishing boat operates, deckhands may complete qualifications to become first mates or skippers.

### **Salary range**

Fishing deckhands are usually paid a percentage of what the catch is worth, which depends on their experience. Deep-sea deckhands usually earn between \$30,000 and \$50,000 per year.

A deckhand on an inshore fishing boat may earn between \$20,000 and \$60,000 per year, depending on the size and value of the catch. Some companies pay a combination of a retainer and a percentage of the catch.

### **Other careers this profession could lead to**

#### **Fishing Skipper**

Fishing skippers are responsible for the running of a fishing boat, which ranges from navigating the vessel and organising the crew to catching and processing fish.

#### **At-Sea Seafood Processor**

At-sea seafood processors work in the factory of a deep-sea fishing vessel to prepare seafood and seafood products for sale.

#### **At-sea Seafood Supervisor**

At-sea seafood supervisors work in the factory of a deep-sea fishing vessel and supervise and assist with the preparation of seafood and seafood products for sale.

### **How to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry**

You can do pre-employment courses at schools or go visit with local fisherman and ask to do some work experience.

### **Other places to source information about this job**

[www.sito.co.nz](http://www.sito.co.nz)

[www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)