

Discover careers in Shetland's seafood industry



“ You don't realise how diverse the jobs in aquaculture are until you're in the industry. Alongside the growing and processing roles, there are scientists, regulatory testers, and fish health experts all working together. ”

Drew Manson, SSQC Ltd

Since joining SSQC in 2020, Drew's seafood career journey is interesting and inspiring. Here he shares his story.

DREW MANSON

Role: Senior Analyst at SSQC

Where: Scalloway, Shetland

Education: Integrated Master's in Microbiology

Passionate about: Science, quality, and supporting Shetland's seafood industry

What do you think about the role of seafood in Shetland's economy?

Shetland produces 81% of Scotland's mussels and 25% of its salmon. It's incredible to think that such a small place contributes so much to the national seafood industry.

Mussels are carbon-neutral and good for the environment. It's exciting to work in a sector that not only has economic value but also a positive ecological impact.

What led you to your current role?

While studying an integrated master's degree in microbiology, I worked at SSQC as an assistant over two summers. After graduation, I started here full-time as a technician. From technician, I was promoted to trainee analyst, then to mussel project officer for a three-year research project. Now, I'm a senior analyst.

Did you expect such a variety of jobs in the seafood sector?

There's so much opportunity for growth in this sector. You can start with a fresh CV and get trained—it's a great place to build a career.

Being Shetland's first line of defense for testing ensures we maintain the highest quality seafood products.

It's rewarding to know my work directly supports such an important industry.

Was this always your goal?

As a little boy, my first Christmas present, where I could articulate what I wanted, was a microscope. I still have it. I always wanted to be a scientist, so this really feels like living the dream.

The seafood industry supports a wide range of careers and it's not just about life at sea. Many opportunities are available across a range of disciplines. To find out more, visit

seafoodshetland.co.uk/careers