

Discover careers in Shetland's seafood industry



When I first joined the aquaculture sector, I didn't realise the variety of job roles within the industry. There's a role for everyone and anyone.

Stuart Lavender, Cooke Scotland

Stuart's journey with Cooke Scotland highlights how dedication and learning lead to great opportunities. Here he shares his story.

STUART LAVENDER

Role: Deckhand at Cooke Scotland

Where: North Isles, Shetland

Education: SVQs in Aquaculture

Passionate about: Building his career and supporting Shetland's marine sector

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

Seafood is a massive part of Shetland's economy and history. It provides a lot of employment opportunities and gives Shetland residents a chance to start and grow their own businesses.

How did you get to where you are now?

I started off as a site assistant, learning the role and, with the help of my employer Cooke Scotland, I completed Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) in Aquaculture to give me the experience and knowledge for my current role.

What led you to this role? Was this always your goal?

The opportunity arose when I felt like I was ready for the next step to further my career.

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

There's a lot more than being on a farmed site or a fishing boat with a role for everyone and anyone. At Cooke we employ over 380 members of staff in well-paid, long-term jobs in seawater, freshwater and processing as well as many business support roles.

Where do you see yourself and the industry in the future?

I would like to see the sector continue to grow and I would like to progress my career by completing another level of my SVQ, pursuing a career as a skipper of one of our vessels or a manager of a site or area.

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