

Port Isaac fisherman Calum Greenhalgh talks about fishing



Calum



Calum's boat, 'Mary D'

"The first time I went out to see fishing was with my future father-in-law, Neville Andrews on the Dunlin. I was 19 and studying at Plymouth University. I didn't eat all my crib - but I wasn't sea sick! Although I enjoyed the trip I never imagined that this would be my future but as the years went by, I just fell into being a fisherman.

Compared to when I started out, there are a lot less fishermen and boats working from Port Isaac and there are no longer any old fishermen hanging around the Platt, dispensing 'words of wisdom' - whether you wanted to hear them or not! However, the catch is much the same – crab and lobster (preferably lobster!).



Above: Grandpa Jack Spry



Calum's second boat, 'Flying Fisher', 1996/97



Meg Greenhalgh in the 'Fenlander', 1998 - to the side is the dinghy that Tracey's (Meg's mum) Dad bought her to mess around in when she was a teenager

I hold a Under 16.5 meter Skippers Licence (unrestricted), and have qualifications in Sea Survival, First Aid, Engineering, Watch Keeping, Stability Awareness and Health & Safety to name a few. But a lot of my knowledge comes from the invaluable informal training I got from Grandpa Jack (Jack Spry) on the 'Mako' - Grandpa Jack spent many years of his retirement coming to sea with me. I am also indebted to Uncle Bill Spry, Neville Andrews, Uncle Jack Rowe and Captain Bernard Baker for sharing their local knowledge.

Looking to the future, I am hoping that the fishing will come good with all the conservation measures that are now in force and that we will be able to use less pots to catch more fish. I actively support several Conservation projects and I:

- Unilaterally 'V notch' every Berried Hen I catch
- Supply the National Lobster Hatchery in Padstow with Berried Hens and release juvenile lobsters for them. I am also working on a new project with the hatchery to track the DNA of the released samples to prove survival rates.

I was the first boat in North Cornwall to be accredited by the Responsible Fishing Scheme - this involves following good practice, sustainability, conservation measures and low environmental impact.

In 50 years time I definitely hope to be retired - providing all the children have left home! As for following in my footsteps, I can't see my eldest son Jack becoming a fisherman as his nickname on the boat is 'Rip van Winkle'; the boy can even go to sleep in a fish basket and has the audacity to clock up his hours and ask for his pay when he gets ashore! On the other hand, William (age 9) would leave school tomorrow to be a deck hand. He has his own boat and lobster pots in the garden and



Below: The future of fishing in Port Isaac - William Greenhalgh



Heading home