

Tom Brown, fifth generation fisherman

one of Port Isaac's youngest fishermen talks to PISCES

"I was eight years old when I first went out to sea with my Dad. It was on his boat 'Nimrod' and I had to listen to him singing all day! I never imagined that this was going to be the life for me. We have had a few family boats and I remember 'Lisa Maria' and 'Free Spirit'. Today we fish from 'Free Spirit II'.

It was my dream to be a Moto X Rider so I never even thought about becoming a fisherman. But that was not to be (when you have a child of your own you suddenly become sensible!) and my Dad persuaded me to try fishing. Actually, the seed must have already been set because I remember when I was younger sneaking onto the boat and catching loads of mackerel.



Three generations - Tom, Archie and Jeremy and below Tom and Jeremy at work on Free Spirit II



My Dad has taught me all I know and I am a firm believer that experience is the best teacher. The in-house teachers in colleges etc have most likely never set foot on a boat and can only teach the theory.

Today we catch Crab, Lobster and Spider Crab and even in the short time I have been a full time fisherman I have seen our overheads (bait, fuel etc) rocket whilst the price we get for our catch remains the same.

Being the son of a Fisherman's Friend I am often asked if I sing with my Dad – and yes, we sometimes sing shanties when we're out at sea – but only for a laugh, of course!

Now I am a father myself I need a secure future for my son and so I imagine that fishing out of Port Isaac is the life for me for the foreseeable future. The fishing restrictions that are constantly being brought in might change this but I am optimistic about the future. As for my son following me into the family business when he's old enough – I'd be more than happy to welcome him on board – if his Mother would let him!"