

PRESS RELEASE

Shetland Student one of the best again!

Shetland student Richard Arthur from Whalsay who recently achieved the qualification of Class 1 Fishing Vessel Engineer has been chosen as one of the finalists in the National Seafood Awards Trainee of the Year category. All the worthy finalists were assessed in an extensive judging session which drew expertise from all areas of Seafish business and all corners of the UK and chose the very best the industry has to offer. Richard has now been invited to attend the awards ceremony in London on 22 March, where the National winner will be announced.



Caroline Hepburn, Shetland Fisheries Training Association (STFA) Training Co-ordinator who nominated Richard for the award said she was *“delighted that a Shetland student had been recognised once again for commitment to his chosen career and excellence in achievement. I very much hope Richard will travel to London to attend the Awards Ceremony which should be a memorable and enjoyable experience.”*

This is the second year running that a former Shetland School of Nautical Studies (SSNS) student has gone to the finals. It gives recognition to the high level of training available in Shetland as well as the dedication and skills of young fishermen in the local industry.”

Richard began his Skillseeker/Modern Apprenticeship training with SFTA in 1998 with a view to becoming a fishing vessel engineer. Richard has always been very keen to learn and throughout his training wanted to build up his sea time, which ultimately would allow him to progress towards achieving his ambition of becoming a Class 1 fishing vessel engineer.

Prior to achieving this goal, he had to move up through the system by attaining the SVQ Level 2 Marine Vessel Support Fishing and a Class 2 Fishing Vessel Engineer Certificate of Competency. Richard gained very good pass marks throughout all of his training and showed great determination. His lecturers described him as *“hard working and conscientious, able to work with minimum supervision and highly self-motivated.”*



Richard continues to work on board the “Arcturus” where he is a valued crew member. His Engineering Certificate of Competency has undoubtedly made him one of the most highly qualified men on board with a vastly increased knowledge of engine room operations.

PHOTO © NAFC: *Richard Arthur*

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

In view of the increasing range and scope of the work being undertaken by NAFC, the decision was taken in September 2005 to change the institute’s name from the North Atlantic Fisheries College to the NAFC Marine Centre.

Please note our correct title is now 'NAFC Marine Centre'. The 'NAFC' in our title identifies us with, and provides continuity from, our previous name – North Atlantic Fisheries College. In conversation 'NAFC' should be spelt out as 'N-A-F-C'. Similarly, we are no longer just a 'college', but a marine centre - providing education, research and commercial services to the marine sector.