

## **NSLIP 2008**

### **Che Spruyt**

#### **South Australian Abalone Diver/Deckhand.**

First and foremost I would like to acknowledge the various sponsors that made it possible for me to attend this course. They were the Sydney fish Market (SFM), fisheries research and development corporation (FRDC), the Australian seafood cooperative research centre (ASCRC) and the Abalone Industry Association of South Australia Inc. Without these sponsors I would not have been able to attend this course.

First of all a little about me, I am a second generation abalone diver, in this line of work you spend many hours by yourself whether it is on deck or underwater, this goes a way to explaining some of the things I learnt on the course about myself, I will explain this later. As a result of this line of work I do not generally spend a lot of time indoors or with large groups of people. As a result of the above I learnt on the course that I am a person that is classified as an introvert, this I took to mean as someone who is generally very quiet. This trait I attribute to my job, the course showed me that this is not necessarily a bad thing but that I have to keep it in mind so that I can be more assertive in the way I conduct myself. This is also something I learnt on the course, how to be more assertive. These are the two main aspects of the course that I found the greatest value in, however there were many other components that I found very useful.

For example been shown how various personalities react to one other and how they all can be managed effectively in all situations. According to one of the components of the course something that I would be good at would be being the chair, this I found a little hard to understand as I rarely like being in the spotlight. This is something I will have to work on. Also I found that many people with similar backgrounds to me (i.e. fisherman) had very similar personality traits in that many of them did not say anything unless they felt it was absolutely necessary. I found the course very effective at encouraging myself and others at coming forward out of their “shells” as such.

Another part of the course that I found very good was meeting all the different people within the fishing industry as a whole. I believe had I not been involved with this program it is highly unlikely that I would have meet even half of the people within the industry. This I think is very important as it has created contacts/opportunities for me that I would not have otherwise had or even known about.

The course facilitators (Jill and Chris) provide an exceptional and I now know very necessary service in what they do. I would recommend this course to anyone in fishing industry looking to become more involved in this sector, however I would also say that future participants need to 100% committed to this program because at times it can be very challenging and also eye opening particularly about ones personal traits.

In all I found this program to be very effective at broadening my horizons within the fishing industry and I hope that this training of future leaders is continued in the coming years.

Regards Che Spruyt.