S.O.T. SYSTEMS OF TIMOR

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Rua de Ai Meti Laran, Comoro, Dom Aleixo, Dili

JOB PROFILE

Fisher / fishing deckhand

Peskadór / tripulante ró peska

Agriculture, fisheries & forestry · ISCO-08 6222 (6223 deep-sea)

Fishers catch fish and other sea animals from boats, close to the coast or far out at sea, alone or as part of a boat crew. In September 2025, 33 of 35 Timorese workers sent to South Korea went to work in fishing.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**School course · safety course** Técnico de Pescas; CNEFP sea safety
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**Priority** National Employment Strategy; Government programme
ABROAD	**South Korea · EPS** Most Korea placements are in fishing
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$234 / month** Average for all skilled agricultural workers in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Get ready: Prepare and mend nets, lines, hooks and traps; Check the boat, engine and safety equipment; Load fuel, ice, bait and food before the trip.

Fish at sea: Go out to the fishing grounds and watch the weather and sea; Set and pull in nets, lines and traps; Steer the boat and work the deck machines on bigger boats.

Look after the catch: Sort the fish by type and size; Clean the fish and keep it on ice or frozen; Unload the catch at the port.

Sell and stay safe: Sell the catch at the market or to buyers; Wear a life jacket and follow safety rules at sea; Work as a team with the rest of the crew.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 unit groups 6222, Inland and coastal waters fishery workers, and 6223, Deep-sea fishery workers.

WHERE YOU WORK

Small boats near the coast (Day trips from your own village); Big fishing boats (Deep-sea fishing); Ports and fish markets (Unloading, sorting and selling); Fishing boats in Korea (Through the government programme).

You work at sea in all weather. Trips can start at night or before dawn, and the work is hard and can be dangerous.

Fisheries is one of five priority economic areas in the National Employment Strategy. The Government plans to train more people in fisheries, invest in deep-sea fishing, and help fishers get better boats and equipment.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Swimming, Hard physical work, Staying calm when things go wrong, Teamwork, Fixing things with your hands.

You like: The sea, Being outdoors, Early mornings and long trips, Working with a small crew.

To work on boats abroad you also need to learn the language of the country, for example Korean.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **Técnico de Pescas** · Technical secondary school course (ESTV)
- **CNEFP Tibar: Maritime Safety for Fishermen** · 31 people finished this course in 2025. Level not stated.

No INDMO national certificate for fishing is listed yet, and the published list is incomplete. Course length and fees: to confirm with each school and centre. The directory never shows a number without a source.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Fisher or deckhand near the coast** · Learn at sea; sea safety course
- **Crew on deep-sea fishing boats** · ISCO-08 unit group 6223; Korea hires fishing crew
- **Your own boat or fish business** · Startups of Timor helps you start one

WORK ABROAD, SAFELY

- **South Korea: Employment Permit System** · SEFOPE sends workers to South Korea under an agreement between the two governments. Of the 35 workers who left in September 2025, 33 went to the fishing industry.

Never pay a fixer. Join only through SEFOPE, the Timor-Leste government office for work abroad. No one can sell you a place, and a real overseas job never asks you for a recruitment fee.

SOURCES

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4. Tatoli, 251 young Timorese complete vocational training at CNEFP, 20 Nov 2025 https://en.tatoli.tl/?p=66213
5. APTC, Timor-Leste Skills Strategy 2022, Annex I (INDMO qualification titles) https://24045200.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/24045200/Files/Timor-Leste%20Skills%20Strategy%202023.pdf
6. National Employment Strategy 2017–2030 (Government Resolution 44/2017) https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/National-Employment-Strategy-2017-2030.pdf
7. Programme of the IX Constitutional Government 2023–2028, §4.2.3 Fisheries https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/EN-Programa-IX-Governo.pdf
8. Labour Force Survey 2021, Table 29: average monthly wage of employees by occupation group https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40asia/%40ro-bangkok/%40ilo-jakarta/documents/publication/wcms_863064.pdf

From the Servisu jobs directory. Every figure has a source; "to confirm" means none yet. http://servisu.oftimor.com/jobs-directory/fisher-fishing-deckhand/?lang=en