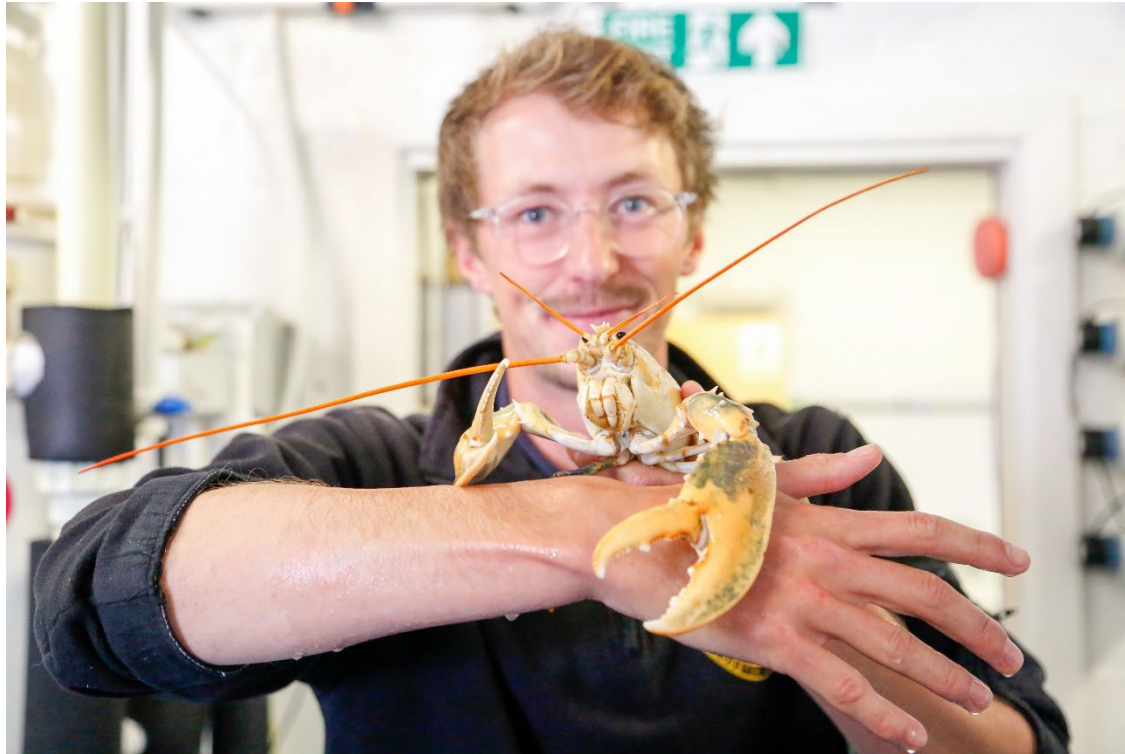


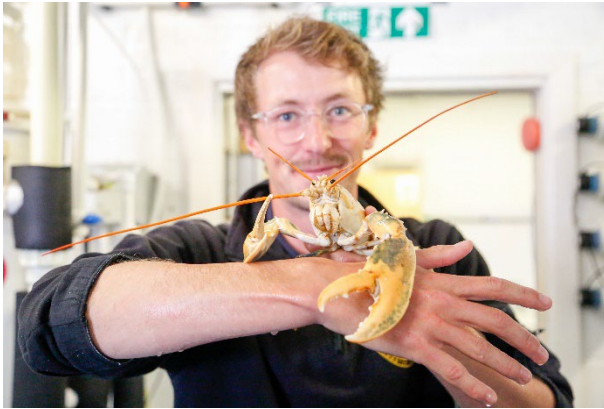
A Scientist just like me



Chris Weston
Lobster Hatchery
Technician

A SCIENTIST just like me

Hi there! I am Chris Weston – A lobster hatchery technician



Where do I work?

I work at The National Lobster Hatchery in Cornwall, growing baby lobsters and releasing them back into the sea.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I liked science, geography and anything about nature.

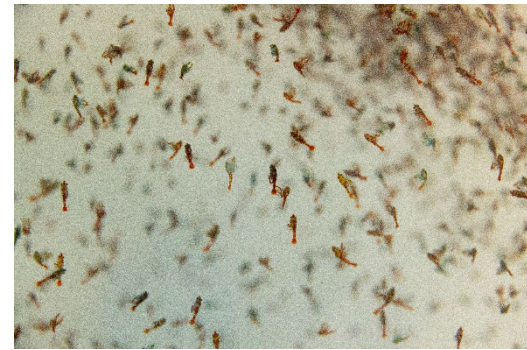
What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love surfing or walking my dogs along the beach near where I live. I am lucky to live near the sea with my job, so I go surfing and I have even competed in national competitions.

A SCIENTIST just like me

What do I do as a lobster hatchery technician?

I look after lobsters of all sizes in our hatchery tanks, from mother lobsters with eggs, and baby and 'teenage' lobsters that are a few months old. I make sure the water they live in is good quality and move lobsters between tanks when they outgrow them. I go on boats and to the seashore to release lobsters back into the ocean.



Baby lobster image by Mat Arney

How does what I do make the world a better place?

By helping lobster populations to survive, other animals and plants on the seabed remain healthy. I also talk to schools, students and members of the public about lobster science so that they can learn just how fascinating lobsters and other marine creatures really are!

A SCIENTIST just like me

What I like about my job

I work as part of a team of other lobster hatchery technicians, which is great fun. I go to some really cool places, often working on boats and seeing the coastline of Cornwall when I am releasing lobsters! Hatching lobsters from eggs, looking after them for several months and then releasing them into the sea is very satisfying.



Releasing lobsters from a boat, image: Lewis Jeffries

Challenges I have faced

Young lobsters are extremely delicate and easily harmed so it is important I know a lot about how to look after them correctly and make sure they are healthy. Having to work in all kinds of weather is often challenging. Sometimes we must brave wind, rain and storms while working in the field.

A SCIENTIST just like me

If you want to be a hatchery technician, you need:

- ✱ great **lobster biology knowledge**. It's important I know a great amount of detail about the animal, its biology and its life cycle.
- ✱ great **team skills** to get on with other people and being professional is very important to make sure all the work gets done and the lobsters can thrive!
- ✱ great **communication skills** and an ability to stay calm under pressure. Lobster hatcheries are fast-paced work environments, so being able to clearly and quickly communicate with other members of the team is vital.



Image: Mat Arney

A SCIENTIST just like me

Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be hatchery technician like Chris Weston?

Why? Why not?



- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a hatchery technician?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

A SCIENTIST just like me

Free supporting resources for biology:

[UK Wildlife](#) – suitable for ages 5-11 years

[Why & How magazine](#) – [See issue 18](#) – resources for seaside learning

[Did you know?](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides can be used as classroom presentations. They explain what scientists have done and suggest practical activities for children. Children interested in marine science might also be interested in these projects. See:

- [Soundscapes can help restore coral reefs](#)
- [How to calculate the age of a shark](#)
- [Whale song is changing](#)

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

