

Abalone Diver interview questions

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What to expect

Interviews for abalone diver roles focus on your dive skills, safety awareness, fisheries compliance and ability to work in a small team. Expect questions about your licences, quota history and practical experience on rocky reefs.

- **Technical:** Questions about dive equipment, abalone measurement, and catch handling.
- **Safety:** Scenarios about underwater emergencies, weather changes and equipment failure.
- **Process:** How you record quota, maintain gear and prepare for a dive trip.
- **Behavioural:** Past examples of teamwork, problem solving and working under pressure.
- **Regulatory:** Your understanding of state fisheries licences, quota rules and dive medical requirements.

The process usually starts with a phone screen covering your licences, dive medical and quota history. If you progress, you meet the skipper or operation manager, often at the vessel or shed. That interview combines conversation with a practical check of gear handling and catch recording. Some employers may ask you to complete a short dive assessment.

1. Walk me through your process for measuring an abalone and deciding whether to keep it.

Why they ask

This tests your technical knowledge and attention to detail, which are critical for quota compliance.

How to structure your answer

Step-by-step walk-through of your measurement and decision process.

Example answer

"First I check the size against the state's minimum legal length using my gauge. I hold the abalone flat, measure across the widest part of the shell, and if it's undersized I return it to the same rock or a nearby crevice. I also check for any tags or marks. I record the location and size in my catch app as I go, so quota details are up to date."

2. Tell me about a time you had to solve a problem underwater.

Why they ask

This shows how you handle unexpected issues while diving, which is a core part of the job.

How to structure your answer

Use STAR: situation, task, action, result.

Example answer

"On a trip last season, my dive computer battery died mid-dive. I signalled my buddy, we ascended together using his computer, and I switched to my backup computer on the surface. I now carry a spare battery and check my computer before every dive."

3. What would you do if the weather turned while you were on a dive?

Why they ask

Safety is paramount in this role, and employers want to see you can make sound judgements under pressure.

How to structure your answer

Judgement under pressure: immediate safety steps, then communication, then decision.

Example answer

"I would end the dive safely, surface at a controlled rate, and signal the vessel. Once on board, I'd check the marine radio for updated forecasts and discuss with the skipper whether to move to a sheltered spot or return to port. Safety of the crew and vessel comes first."

4. How do you ensure your catch records are accurate and compliant with quota rules?

Why they ask

Accurate records are a legal requirement and directly affect the operation's licence and reputation.

How to structure your answer

Explain your process, including checks and consequences.

Example answer

"I use the catch recording app to log each abalone as I harvest, including location, size and time. At the end of each day, I reconcile the app with my paper backup. I check my remaining quota before each trip so I never exceed it. If I notice a discrepancy, I report it to the fisheries authority immediately."

5. Describe your experience maintaining dive gear and air systems.

Why they ask

Well-maintained gear prevents accidents and downtime, which is vital when weather windows are short.

How to structure your answer

List equipment, maintenance schedule, and troubleshooting.

Example answer

"I rinse my regulator, BCD and wetsuit in fresh water after every dive. I check hoses and O-rings for wear, and I service my air cylinder according to the manufacturer's schedule. I also keep a log of maintenance dates. If I spot a leak or crack, I tag the gear out until it's repaired."

6. Give an example of how you've worked with a skipper or deckhand to land a catch safely.

Why they ask

This shows teamwork and communication, which are essential on a small vessel.

How to structure your answer

Use STAR: situation, task, action, result.

Example answer

"On a trip with a new deckhand, we agreed on hand signals before the dive. When I surfaced with a full catch bag, I signalled and passed it up carefully. The deckhand secured it and logged the catch while I stayed in the water for another set. We finished the day with no incidents and met our quota."