

# My Career in Maritime Operation



With a *Certificate in Maritime Operations*, graduates may have the possible *career options* of the following:

- Deckhand/General Purpose Hand
- Seaman/Ordinary Seaman
- Navigational Watchman

NB: It should be noted that this field is relatively under-developed on the island and the program is relatively new.

### **Deckhand/General Purpose Hand**

The job descriptions and job specifications for these careers are as follows:

#### **Career Overview**

This is the entry point for starting a career at sea. It requires the undertaking of a wide range of fishery and maritime work, both on land and at sea. This post holder works closely with the Master/Engineer to ensure the safety of the vessel, passengers and crew.

#### **Typical Duties:**

- Assisting in berthing and unberthing vessels.
- Maintenance duties such as greasing machinery, cleaning and painting.
- Assisting with watch keeping.
- Operation of winches and equipment.
- Other duties as directed.

#### **Work Environment**

This may vary depending on the type of vessel you work on (ferries, trawlers, customs patrol vessels, fisheries patrol boats and pilot vessels). A fishing vessel may require the use of pots, lines and scuba equipment. A recreational or charter vessel may require hospitality services, including taking care of passengers and serving refreshments. This is a seafarer's entry position with a natural progression for Coxswain, Master and Engineer. The job requires long hours at sea in various weather conditions.

## **Qualifications and Licenses**

No formal academic qualifications are necessary. However, a medical certificate and certification of good vision are required. To improve one's chances, a certificate from the SJPP in Maritime Operations or from a regional or other recognized technical training body would be advantageous. There are no C/NVQs presently available in this area.

## **Essential Qualities and Skills**

- ❖ Must be physically fit
- ❖ Must have normal colour vision
- ❖ An awareness of maritime safety issues and excellent hand-eye coordination
- ❖ Knowledge of first aid

## **References**

<http://careersatsea.com.au/cms.php?pageid=41&mainpage=Careers#top2> Retrieved January 2016

<http://tlisc.org.au/04/2013/deck-handgeneral-purpose-hand/> Retrieved January 2016

## **Seaman/Ordinary Seaman**

The job descriptions and job specifications for these careers are as follows:

### **Career Overview**

Generally concerned with maintaining the cleanliness of the whole ship. Works for a set time referred to as sea time towards becoming an Able Seaman. Generally, assist sailors in conducting the affairs of the vessel, maintaining safety and keeping watch.

### **Typical Duties:**

- Work towards certification as an able seaman.
- Paint, buff and scale decks and ship structure.
- Ensure that the ship's deck is free of water and dirt.
- Splice and knot wire and rope.

## **Typical Duties Cont'd**

- Stage large amounts of equipment, such as twist-locks, braces, ratchet-straps, tie-down rods.
- Loads and uploads cargos, protects cargo.
- Refinish affected areas with sealant, primers and paint to slow the oxidation process.
- Boat launching and boat recovery.
- Work with bridge equipment, identify and remove rust accumulation.
- Demonstrate marlinspike seamanship skills.
- Assist with routine maintenance of a vessel.
- Apply basic survival skills in the event of vessel abandonment.
- Meet work health and safety requirements.
- Follow procedures to minimize and fight fires onboard a vessel.
- Work effectively as part of a crew on a vessel up to 80 metres.
- Apply general purpose hand skills aboard a vessel.
- Perform basic lookout duties.

## **Work Environment**

This will be on the deck of a ship. The actual environment varies depending on the type of vessel you work on (ferries, trawlers, customs patrol vessels, fisheries patrol boats and pilot vessels). A fishing vessel may require the use of pots, lines and scuba equipment. A recreational or charter vessel may require hospitality services, including taking care of passengers and serving refreshments. The job requires long hours at sea in various weather conditions.

## **Qualifications and Licenses**

No formal academic qualifications necessary. However, a medical certificate and certification of good vision are required. To improve one's chances, a certificate from the SJPP in Maritime Operations or from a regional or other recognized technical training body would be advantageous. There are no C/NVQs presently available in this area.

## **Essentials Qualities and Skills**

- ❖ Effective communication skills
- ❖ Good teamwork skills
- ❖ Ability to problem-solve
- ❖ Ability to show initiative and enterprise
- ❖ Good planning and organizing skills
- ❖ Ability to self-manage
- ❖ Eagerness and willingness to learn
- ❖ Adaptability to technology

## **Navigational Watchman**

The deck crew as part of the watch systems onboard will be required to undertake the following tasks:

- Carry out established watch duties on or off charter
- Know and execute responsibilities as listed in the vessel's Muster list for things like fire response, ship abandonment, man overboard
- Display knowledge and function of the use of life jackets, torches, fire extinguishers, fire escape hoods, flare kits, signaling devices, abandon ship kit, line throwing devices and life raft deployment and any other safety related equipment
- Strict adherence to the ships safety and security policy

## **References**

<http://www.americasjobexchange.com/ordinary-seaman-job-description> Retrieved January 2016

<https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/MAR10113#> Retrieved January 2016

[http://www.seamanjobsite.com/profile\\_item-6/Ordinary-Seaman.html](http://www.seamanjobsite.com/profile_item-6/Ordinary-Seaman.html) Retrieved January 2016

[http://yachtandcrew.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=189:deck-hand-duties-at-the-top&catid=55:deck-crew-matters&Itemid=2](http://yachtandcrew.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=189:deck-hand-duties-at-the-top&catid=55:deck-crew-matters&Itemid=2) Retrieved January 2016