



Pêches et Océans
Canada

Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Garde côtière
canadienne

Canadian
Coast Guard



Boatswain Helms (man-woman) – Deckhand



Maude Perreault, Deckhand
CCGS Des Groseilliers

Testimonial

Navigating on board a Coast Guard vessel brought me the opportunity to go to places very few people have a chance to visit. When you arrive in Eureka, close to the polar ice cap, the immensity of this unhabited territory is breath taking. My trade allowed me to realise my dream: visit the Arctic.

If you have a taste for adventure, discovery of new horizons and meeting other cultures, the Canadian Coast Guard is the employer for you.

Boatswain



Pierre Vallières
Boatswain
CCGS Des Groseilliers

As a boatswain, you have the responsibility to ensure that all deck operations unfold safely and in conformance with the chief officer directions. You are also in constant communication with the wheelhouse.

The success of operations as important as the buoys tending operations, the loading and unloading of cargo, etc. depend in great part upon the boatswain and his deck crew team.

Numerous dangers are present on the deck of a vessel: booms, cables, chains, etc.

The cargo handling, by nature, is a high accident potential activity. The boatswain and deck hands must be cautious and use proper work methods, more so, when the weather conditions worsen: winds, high waves, etc.

When operations allow it, the boatswain assigns staff to ensure that the inside of the ship is clean.



Canada

Helms (man-woman)



Thierry Alamy
Helms man
CCGS Des Groseilliers



Daniel Gosselin
Helms man
CCGS Des Groseilliers

The helms (man-woman) does his shift in the wheelhouse. His responsibilities include steering the ship as per the navigation officer's instructions. He is responsible to ensure that the ship holds its bearing. The helms man is also responsible for reporting any objects hindering the navigation or any anomaly in the navigation equipment such as the gyrocompas, magnetic compas or steering system problems.

As helms (man-woman), you also act as look-out in the wheelhouse. The look-out is a person placed on a vessel to observe the ship's environment. The look-out does visual and auditive observations to ensure the knowledge of any conditions surrounding the the ship, for example: shipwrecked persons, vessels, ice, reefs. History has shown that it is a good habit to keep a sharp look-out whenever a ship is at sea.

The helms (man-woman) will sometimes be assigned to operate small crafts (zodiac, barge). He may also be assigned to operate the winches, for example, during cargo loading and unloading operations. He can also replace the boatswain, when required.

Deck hand



Deck hands
Buoy tending operations

A board a vessel, the deck equipments must be safe, maintained and ready to be used at any moment. Thus, the deck hand's role is important since he is the person ensuring the deck equipment operational status by maintaining them (winches, windlass, cabstans, hatches, cables, etc.) used for the vessel manoeuver and mooring.

Deck hands are involved in most of the vessel operations and their service is essential on every Coast Guard ship. They participate to the cargo loading, unloading and handling.

Their services are also required during the seasonal buoy tending operations. On certain occasions, the deck hand may be required to operate the ship's windlass.

During search and rescue operation, the deck hand may be assigned to participate in the operations as a look-out on oard the ship or helicopter. Some deck hands can also be part of the fire fighting teams as fire fighters or assistants.

The deck hand's services are also required during operations requiring the use of small crafts from the ship, for example, to transport merchandises or to oversee fuel transfer operations. Deck hands also board the helicopter in order to assist the technicians on navigational aids land sites.

The deck hand also executes various maintenance works aboard the ships such as cleaning and paint works, etc.

What academic training and professional development do I need?

- Marine Emergency Duty training :
 - Sécurité de base STCW (*Basic security*)(60h)
 - Aptitude à l'exploitation des bateaux de sauvetage et canots de secours (*Lifeboats and liferafts exploitation compentecy*) (28h)
- Sea time with apprenticeship on board in order to meet Transport Canada exam requirements and advance to other positions.

Where can I study?

- Institut maritime du Québec offers Marine Emergency Duty training in St-Romuald (Quebec City Area).

What are my career opportunities?

- Boatswain;
- Navigation Officer;
- Various positions within the Federal Public Services.

What qualities and interests are essential?

- Enjoy team work;
- Be in good physical condition;
- Aptitude for manual work;
- Resourcefulness and initiative;
- Able to work irregular schedules;
- Taste for adventure and travel!

Average initial annual income: 44 000 \$ à 53 000 \$

Salary varies according to position and time worked. Most Coast Guard crews work a schedule called lay-day, or a period of 14 to 42 days at sea followed by equivalent time off with pay.

For more information

Garde côtière canadienne, site national : www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca

Comité sectoriel de main-d'oeuvre de l'industrie maritime : www.csmoim.qc.ca

Institut maritime du Québec : www.imq.qc.ca

(for Marine Emergency Duty training).