



Earnings

Low:	\$50,000
Average:	\$75,000
High:	\$120,000

Essential Characteristics

- Attention to detail
- Effective communication skills
- Knowledge of electronic communication network



Deck Officer

Education and Training

Completion of deck officer cadet program from an approved nautical institute plus a certificate of competency from Transport Canada.

Nature of Work

Deck Officers operate ships or self-propelled vessels to transport passengers and cargo over oceans as well as coastal and inland waters. They also supervise and coordinate the activities of deck crews. They inspect the cargo holds during loading to ensure the load is stowed according to specifications. Deck Officers supervise crewmembers engaged in maintenance and the primary up-keep of the vessel.

Main Duties

- Perform the work for captains on vessels when they are on duty. Mates supervise and coordinate activities for the crew aboard the ship.
- Stand watch for specified periods, usually 4 hours on and 8 hours off. However, on smaller vessels, there may be only one mate (called a pilot on some inland vessels) who alternates watches with the captain. The Deck Officer would assume command of the ship if the captain became incapacitated. When more than one mate is necessary aboard a ship, they are typically designated Chief Mate or First Mate, Second Mate, and Third Mate.

Typical Employer

Marine transportation companies and federal government departments, including the armed forces.

Additional Information

BCIT
www.transportation.bcit.ca/marine/index.html
 Transport Canada
www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/tp/TP8911/menu.htm
 Canadian Merchant Service Guild
www.cmsg-gmmc.ca
 BC Ferries
www.bcferries.com/employment/aboutcareers.html