



Ship's Captain

Education and Training

A Ship's Captain is not the type of job one enters immediately out of a training program. Rather, a pathway is taken where a seafarer rises through the ranks. Prior to becoming a Captain, one generally has decades of operations experience on-board ships.

There are several academies that offer marine specific training. Once this training is completed a person may gain experience at sea, normally as a junior officer of some type, thereby initiating a marine career. Depending on the type of waters and size of ship, differing lengths of sea services are required in order to rise through the ranks.

In Canada, the Canada Shipping Act details the specific qualifications required for Canadian seafarers. For international ocean-goers, the International Maritime Organization sets quality control and experience standards.

Nature of Work

Ship Captains are specialized according to the size of the ship, type of cargo, type of water route and other characteristics. All Captains operate the ships to transport cargo or passengers, supervise duties of ship officers, and are responsible for meeting all national and international marine regulations.

Main Duties

- Steering and operating vessel using radio, depth finder, radar, lights, buoys, and lighthouses.
- Directing and coordinating activities of crew or workers, such as loading and unloading, operating signaling devices, and repairing defective equipment.
- Computing positions, setting courses, and determining speeds
- Inspecting vessels to ensure safety of crew and passengers, efficient and safe operation of vessel and equipment, and conformance to regulations.
- Monitoring sonar and navigational aids.
- Calculating sighting of land, using electronic sounding devices and charts.
- Maintaining records of daily activities, movements, and ports-of-call, and preparing progress and personnel reports.

Typical Employer

Marine transport companies such as Canadian Steamship Lines, pilotage authorities, coast guard, cruise vacation companies, armed forces.

Additional Information

BCIT – Pacific Marine Training Campus
 Canadian Coast Guard College
 Georgian College – Owen Sound Campus
 Institut maritime du Quebec

www.bcit.ca/transportation/marine/
www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/eng/CCG/Home
www.georgianc.on.ca/owen-sound/
www.imq.qc.ca/eng/partner/index.htm

Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland

<http://www.mi.mun.ca/nauticalscience/>

Nova Scotia Community College

www.nsc.ca/Learning_Programs/Schools/trades.asp#Transportation

North Island College

www.nic.bc.ca/programs/programs.aspx?prg=Marine%20Training&sm=l_a

Transport Canada

www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/mpsp-training-examination-certification-menu-1949.htm

Earnings

Low:	\$75,000
Average:	\$100,000
High:	\$150,000

Essential Characteristics

- Manual dexterity
- Good interpersonal skills
- Communication skills

