

DECKHAND



Main tasks and duties

Deckhands ensure that deck equipment is operational and perform various maintenance tasks on board ship under the supervision of the Boatswain (Bosun) and Deck Officers. They work on all types of ships and voyages, including cruises, ocean-going, dredging and towing vessels. They maintain and repair deck equipment used for mooring and berthing manoeuvres and participate in cargo loading and unloading operations. With the onset of new technologies on board ship, Deckhands may also be called to work in any of the vessel's departments.

Academic training or professional development

A diploma of vocational studies (DVS) in seamanship is offered jointly by the Institut maritime du Québec and the Commission scolaire des Navigateurs at the Centre de formation de mécanique de véhicules lourds and Centre de formation aux mesures d'urgence, both located in Lévis. The 735-hour course (approximately seven months) accepts 16 students per cohort. Graduates can access jobs as Deckhands or Engine Room Ratings.

All mariners, regardless of their duties on board ship, must meet certain Transport Canada requirements, notably have taken **STCW Basic Safety Training, Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats and Marine first aid training** (total of approximately one month).

Educational institutions and training centres in Québec

- The Centre de formation aux mesures d'urgence du Québec (Institut maritime du Québec) in Saint-Romuald (Lévis)
- DVS: In collaboration with the Commission scolaire des Navigateurs and the Centre de formation de mécanique de véhicules lourds

Career opportunities

- Deckhand
- Able Seaman
- Helmsman
- Boatswain (Bosun)
- Navigation Officer*

* Deckhands can, by accumulating sea time and completing continuing education courses, become Navigation Officers.

Essential qualities and interests

- Interest in working at sea
- Sea legs
- Ability to function in English or be willing to improve
- Comfortable working at heights
- Ability to work in confined spaces
- Ability to work alone or in a team
- Good manual dexterity
- Autonomous

Average annual income: \$50 000 to \$85 000

Salary depends on rank and time worked (generally 6 to 9 months/year).

For more information

- www.csmoim.qc.ca
- <https://www.seafarers.ca/fr/>
- <https://www.seafarers.ca/>
- www.tc.gc.ca
- www.imq.qc.ca
- www.marinecareers.ca (English)

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