



SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY PROFESSIONAL

Fishing Vessel Master

As a Fishing Vessel Master, you lead your crew to balance productivity, safety, and environmental stewardship. With expertise in navigation and sustainable fishing, you safeguard coastal waters, uphold fishing traditions, and preserve resources for future generations.



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JOB DUTIES

- Navigating the vessels through open waters, using knowledge of tides, weather patterns, and marine charts;
- Overseeing fishing operations;
- Conducting regular safety drills and maintaining safety protocols on board;
- Managing and mentoring the crew;
- Monitoring equipment performance and coordinating maintenance and repairs;
- Recording detailed logs of fishing activities, such as catch data;
- Adapting to changing sea and weather conditions; and
- Maintaining communication with port authorities, other vessels, and shore support.



EDUCATION

- Vessel Operation Certification: a Master's Certificate or Fishing Master's Certificate;
- Diploma or Certification in Marine Navigation or Fisheries Management:
 - Programs in maritime studies, navigation, or fisheries management provide foundational knowledge in vessel operations, sustainability, and fishing regulations;
- On-the-Job Training: experience as a deckhand or crew member is often necessary for skill building;
- Additional Certifications: Training in First Aid, CPR, and safety protocols (e.g., Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW)); and
- Relevant coursework or training may include:
 - marine navigation, seamanship, vessel maintenance, and sustainable fishing practices.



TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Proficiency in navigation and other fishing assistance software;
- Operations and maintenance of hydraulic equipment;
- Maintenance of fishing equipment
- Knowledge of Marine and Fishing Regulations;
- Expertise in Crew Management and Emergency Response;
- Skills in Fishing Techniques and Equipment Operation; and
- Data Recording and Logkeeping.



PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Strong Leadership
- Team Management
- Decision-Making Skills
- Effective Communication Skills
- Physical Stamina
- Resilience for working in demanding marine environments & challenging weather conditions



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WHERE TO WORK

Fishing Vessel Masters may work with organizations including:

Commercial Fishing Companies | **Indigenous Fisheries and Community-Based Fishing Enterprises** | **Seafood Processing and Export Companies** | **Government-Managed Fisheries Programs** | **Private Fishing Vessel Owners and Cooperatives**



INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS

ECO Canada is committed to increasing Indigenous Participation in the Blue Economy by highlighting non-traditional education and training pathways.

Indigenous communities have a deep-rooted history in sustainable fishing, making the role of Fishing Vessel Master a natural fit for many. Programs tailored specifically to Indigenous fishers offer pathways into this leadership role, blending traditional knowledge with advanced certifications to uphold community values and ecological practices.

INDIGENOUS FISHERIES GUARDIAN PROGRAM

- Provides training for Indigenous individuals to manage and protect their fishing territories; and
- Equips participants with leadership skills and marine certifications, such as the Fishing Master's Certificate.

PACIFIC INTEGRATED COMMERCIAL FISHERIES INITIATIVE (PICFI)

- Supports pathways into fishing careers;
- Offers both financial support and professional development; and
- Creates opportunities for Indigenous women to become certified vessel operators.

FIRST NATIONS COMMERCIAL FISHERIES PROGRAM

- Training and funding for Indigenous aiming to pursue commercial fishing careers; and
- Provides mentorship from experienced captains, hands-on experience, and access to training courses in navigation, vessel management, and sustainable fishing techniques.



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