

### Class Concept

Positions in this class operate and maintain research vessels in support of a wide variety of underwater research activities with overall responsibility for the safety and operation of the vessel and passengers. Positions are responsible for all aspects of operations and vessel maintenance year round under potentially hazardous conditions including navigation. Duties can range from crew leader, vessel engineer or relief captain to full oversight and direction of the crew in deploying and retrieving research equipment; determination of safe operating conditions or when to cease operations because of hazardous working conditions; compliance with all state and federal laws on safety for operation of the vessel; oversight of the maintenance of the navigation, electrical and mechanical systems and direction of the maintenance and repair of equipment and other gear involved in completing objectives. Positions provide the means for scientist and academic researchers to obtain a variety of samples and conduct experiments for their studies and deployment of materials to satisfy the program; provides training and instructions to researchers and students as to how to conduct research on the vessel, sampling techniques and safety procedures. The captain works closely with administrators and scientists to plan and execute the research project.

### Recruitment Standards

#### Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Considerable knowledge of the various fishing techniques used on-board commercial fishing vessels, the use of fishing equipment, the fabrication and repair of fishing equipment, navigation, and the use of standard and electronic navigation devices.
- Considerable knowledge of local coastal waters and applicable State, Federal and/or U.S. Coast Guard rules and regulations governing the operation of a vessel inland and offshore waters.
- Working knowledge of the sea and weather, sufficient to safely direct the operation of a vessel on the open ocean.
- Skills in all phases of seamanship including command, navigation and first aid.
- Ability to plan voyages, chart readings and plot courses.
- Ability to make quick decisions on vessel operations in times of crisis such as equipment breakdown and inclement weather.
- Ability to pilot a vessel in inclement weather and heavy seas.

#### Minimum Education and Experience

High school or General Educational Development (GED) diploma and sufficient experience in commercial fishing or other vessel work to be a master of a vessel similar to the vessels operated or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

#### Necessary Special Qualifications

- US Coast Guard Master's Licensure for tonnage required for operation of vessel intended for use.
- Must have or be eligible to obtain a NC Commercial Driver's License at employee's expense.