

RESEARCH VESSEL CREW MEMBER

This is skilled work in the operation of fishing equipment and the maintenance of deck equipment aboard the Research Vessels Carolina Coast, Long Bay or the Rose Bay II. Employees in this class rig the research vessel for various types of fishing or sampling, repair fishing equipment and deck gear, stand watches and make minor repairs to the vessel. Employees may also assist the Research Vessel Engineer with major repairs. Work is performed under the general supervision of the Research Vessel Captain and is guided by accepted marine methods and practices and plans layed out by higher level crewmembers and biologists. Employees may also be required to maintain and operate heavy equipment necessary for the loading and off loading of cultch/reef material and to ensure that its weight is distributed properly. Work may include other duties as assigned.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Complexity of Work - Duties require a working knowledge of various fishing techniques used aboard commercial fishing vessels, the uses of fishing equipment and its repair, the operation and maintenance of deck gear, the operation of electronic navigation equipment and the techniques necessary to maintain and repair decks and hulls. Work may also require a working knowledge of the use, repair and maintenance of dump trucks and front-end crawler loaders.

Intricacy of Work - Work requires the rigging of the vessel as assigned by the Captain and biologist. Employees repair and make gear by splicing ropes and cables. They also operate winches and other equipment when fishing or sampling. Work may also require the operation of a front-end crawler loader on board ship while confined to a small area with little roan for maneuverability. Employees may also assist biologists with sampling, surveying and monitoring as assigned.

Controls Over Wok - Employees receive minimal supervision while performing recurring tasks. However, new or special tasks are restricted by detailed and/or close review by the Captain, Engineer or Biologist.

Judgmental Demands - Judgment is restricted as guidelines clearly dictate most aspects of the work process. No modification is made without approval of the Captain or Biologist. Judgment is required when loading and off loading cultch/reef material to ensure properly weighted distribution.

II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Potential - Improper operation and/or maintenance of equipment could cause damage or loss of costly equipment, delay in the completion of research projects, loss of work time, and exposure of other crew members to dangerous situations.

Care and Attention - Equipment must be rigged precisely according to instructions to insure the accuracy of data collected. While operating the vessel, navigation must be precise to prevent running aground. The operation of loaders and trucks in confined spaces is frequently required.

III. PHYSICAL EFFORT:

Intensity of Effort - Employees lift and carry medium to heavy loads and manually haul in fishing nets, and use ladders to climb from one deck to another. Employees may also operate heavy equipment.

Frequency and Duration - Cruise lengths vary from eight to sixteen hours a day, one to five days at a time. Due to the length of the cruise, effort is exerted frequently. If repairs are necessary, the strain may be extended in duration.

IV. WORK SURROUNDINGS AND HAZARDS:

Worker Surroundings - Work is usually confined to the research vessel which operates in the North Carolina inshore waters and the Atlantic Ocean. Occasionally the vessels are required to travel up and down the eastern coast. Work may also be performed at a cultch/reef material-loading site. Employees are subjected to dust, moving machinery, inclement weather, rough seas and glare. Occasionally employees may be subjected to extremely hot, cramped, noisy quarters when assisting with major repairs in the engine room.

Hazardous Conditions - Employees are regularly exposed to inclement weather and rough seas which could create the potential for injury or death. Employees work around moving equipment while loading or unloading the vessel or assisting in repairs.

V. RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledges, Skills and Abilities - Working knowledge of various fishing techniques used aboard commercial fishing vessels, the uses of fishing equipment and its repair, electronic navigation equipment and techniques necessary to maintain and repair decks and hulls. General knowledge of the principles, methods, and procedures employed in fisheries management. General knowledge of inland and marine species of fish. Ability to operate boats and outboard motors and equipment used in sampling. Ability to perform assigned tasks under adverse weather conditions. Manual dexterity sufficient to splice ropes and cables and mend nets.

Minimum Education and Experience - Completion of grammar school and three years of experience in fishing activities similar to those conducted on research vessels operated by the State of North Carolina; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.