

Captains: The good, the bad & the ugly

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Introductions

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What does it mean to be a captain?

- The captain is ultimately responsible for the boat, and shall have the final say in any decisions. This can include:
 - Routing decisions
 - Weather analysis
 - Making go/no-go decisions
 - Crew choice
 - Determining sea-worthiness of vessel
 - Routine equipment checks and maintenance
 - Mitigation of emergencies while offshore
 - Meal planning/provisioning
 - Establishing a watch schedule
 - Morale
- Although crew may be asked for input, or may have various areas of expertise to contribute, they need to respect the Captain
- Need to have a discussion with boat owner regarding roles - There's only one captain onboard -
 - Captain as rule-of-law vs. Captain as coach

General Expectations & Best Practices

- Drinking expectations
- MOB drills
- Life jackets/tethers
- Do a walkthrough of the boat - have a boat map
- Boat inspections - oil, belts, bilge, etc
- VHF/communication plan and protocols
- Watch change conversation and updates
- Equipment requirements for crew - eg, always have a light on you
- Cooking/meal prep expectations
- Roles aside from Captain
- Health/medication forms



Be your own Captain!

What does it take to become a “licensed” captain?

- Pass a series of written tests - can self study or take a class
- Acquire and document required sea-time
- Pass a drug test, have valid CPR/First Aid cert, health certificate, TWIC card
- Near-coastal vs inland vs OUPV vs Master
 - US recognized only

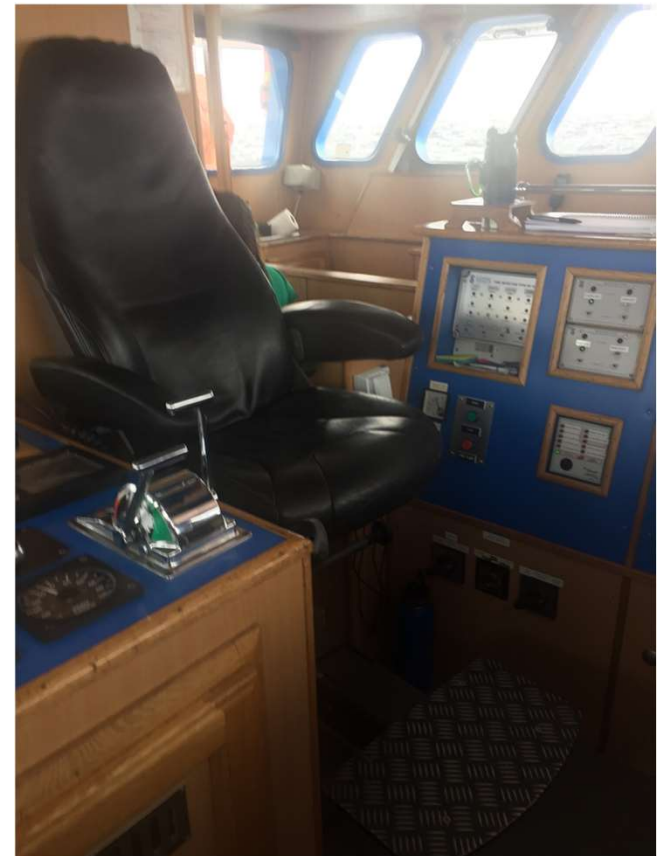


What are the benefits to becoming a licensed captain?

- The license itself is legally required to earn money on a vessel with paying passengers
- Other businesses (research boats, work boats, delivery companies, etc) may require licenses as a way to validate experience
- SO - although a license is not required to skipper/captain your own boat with non-paying crew, there are other benefits to getting a license other than the ability to earn money
 - The class is good education - thorough dive into ROTR, navigation, basic seamanship, charting
 - Even the seetime component for low level licenses is a lot - so you will be on the water A LOT, getting lots of hands-on, practical experience
- NOVAMAR/insurance companies will give discount
- Added confidence to you and other professional mariners around

Where to find a captain?

- Coho Ho Ho crew/captain finder:
<https://cohooho.com/crew-finder/>
- I'm available!
- Be leary - interview both ways: ask for resumes and references



Regardless, you need to be your own captain and make your own choices.

