

New to commercial fishing?

Some tips and tricks from experienced fishermen

In surveys about safety, fishermen said that a good crew is important. Newer crew may need help from experienced crew. We interviewed vessel owners and crew to learn what a greenhorn should know before finding work as a commercial fisherman.

Commercial Fishing Crew Duties

 Keep the boat clean

 Set and haul the gear

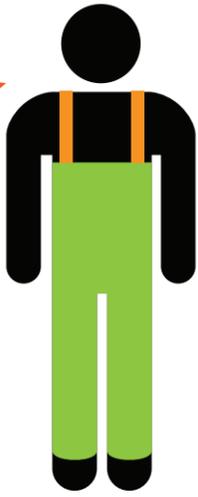
 Handle the catch

 Prepare the bait and gear

 Follow captain's orders

 Stay aware of surroundings

"What makes a great crew is one working together and having fun but working hard. Without a good crew, the captain cannot fish."



Are you....

 Eager and motivated to learn how to fish on a vessel?

 A hard worker who is physically and mentally fit?

 Experienced on boats? Able to tie basic knots? Good with your 'sea legs'?

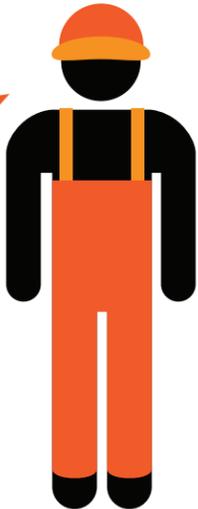
 Able to work as a team?

 Trustworthy?

 Trained in marine safety?

 Drug and alcohol free?

"I understand that owning a vessel is expensive, but I look for a captain that takes vessel maintenance seriously and does not skimp on safety."



Look for a captain that is...

1 A good communicator
Teaches crew how to be successful. Upfront with their expectations

2 Serious about safety
Conducts monthly drills, has all safety equipment, and puts safety before profit

3 Level-headed
Keeps calm in difficult situations

4 Experienced
Knows how to operate the vessel and is good at fishing

5 Responsible
Maintains boat, gear, and equipment. Cares about the crew



Ask the captain what he expects of the crewmen

? What are your duties?

\$ What will your pay be? What is your cost share?

 Who will pay for your food?

 How many trips are expected? How long will they be?

"You need open communication about crew duties rather than just expecting crew to know."

"You might not get rich, but it's a good job!"



★ A good captain will have a crew agreement that outlines all these details. For more information and sample crew agreements go to flippresources.org

Know where the safety equipment is on the vessel...

 Fire extinguisher  Drill log

Life preservers

 First aid kit  Dockside exam decal

...and how to use it correctly