

Careers in Alaska's Seafood Industry



Harvesting *Career Stream 1*

Seafood Employment Program
Employment Security Division

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

An equal opportunity agency. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
TDD Relay Operator 1-800-770-8973

Spring 2004

Why work on a fishing boat?





- Physically Challenging, healthy
- See other parts of Alaska
- Work as a team
- Money? Varies.
- Dangerous

Captain Fishing Vessel

Engineer/Deckhand

**Deck Boss
/Deckhand**

Cook/Deckhand

**Deckhand
Greenhorn**

Jobs on a Fishing Vessel





Jack of All Trades

- Every crewmember onboard a small fishing vessel serves as a “deckhand” in the general harvesting and operation of the vessel. Some deckhands are also responsible for certain departments such as the engine room, galley, and the deck.



Entry Level Deckhand*

Valuable Skills

- Navigation ability, first aid, CPR
- Knowledge of marine electronics: radio, radar, fish finder
- Diesel engine experience
- Skills and inclination for boat maintenance, cleaning
- Cooking, purchasing groceries, supplies

These are not required skills but can give you a better chance at the job!

Entry Level: Cook/Deckhand*

- Cook meals and snacks
- Plan menu for extended trips
- Skills and inclination for boat maintenance, cleaning
- Purchase groceries and cleaning supplies
- Fish on deck when not cooking



These are not required skills but can give you a better chance at the job!

Deck Boss*

- An experienced deckhand
- Responsible for the smooth and safe running of the harvesting operation
- Ensures that equipment is in good condition and available when necessary
- Ability to supervise and direct others
- Fish full-time on deck



Engineer/Deckhand*

- Usually a mechanically inclined deckhand
- Mechanical ability for hydraulic, engine systems
- Ability to troubleshoot, make temporary repairs
- Diesel mechanic, welding training



Captain*

- Usually an experienced deckboss advances to Captain
- Ability to navigate, locate fish and know area
- Master or Mate's license from maritime schools such as AVTEC
- Ability to lead and inspire confidence in a crew
- Understand the rules and regulations of the industry



Big Money vs. Reality

Most of what you hear about **\$BIG MONEY\$** fishing in Alaska is simply not true... Most boat owners have mortgage payments & overhead costs like fuel, ice, bait, groceries, supplies.

Deckhands are paid %

- Percentage of ex-vessel price
- Percentage of case rate
- Fixed Percentage



Harvesting

- Fishing Vessel Operations in Alaska

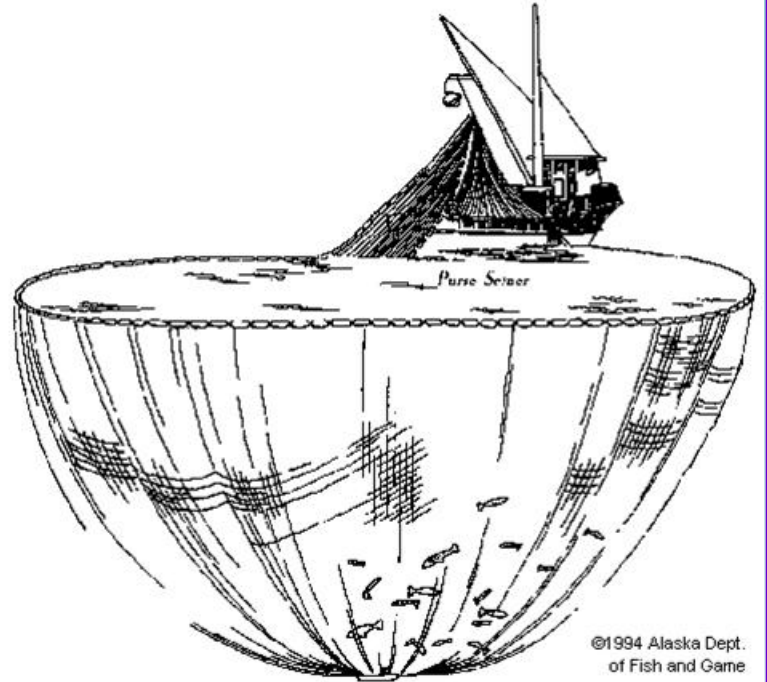


Purse Seiner*

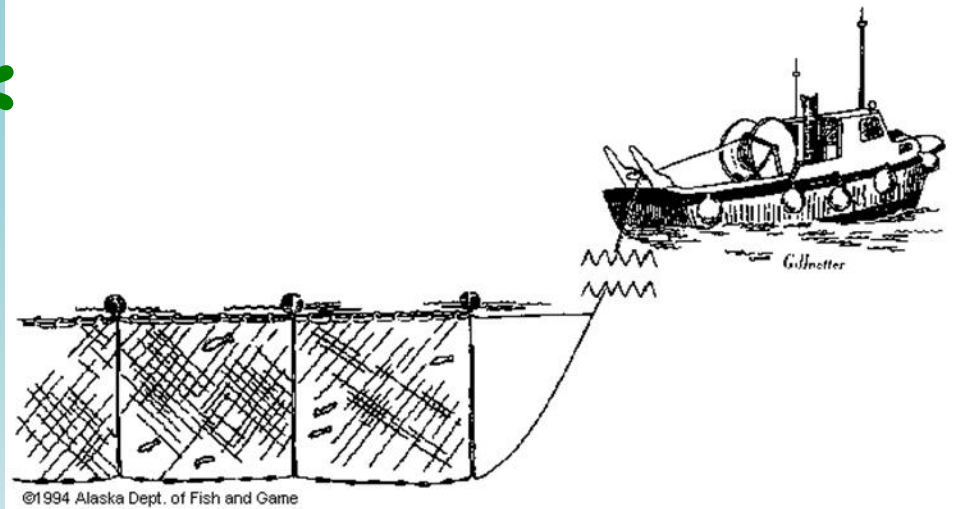
Crew size: 4 to 6

Boat size: Limited to 58' in length

Seasons: Salmon-whole for can and frozen, herring (roe and bait).



Gillnetter*

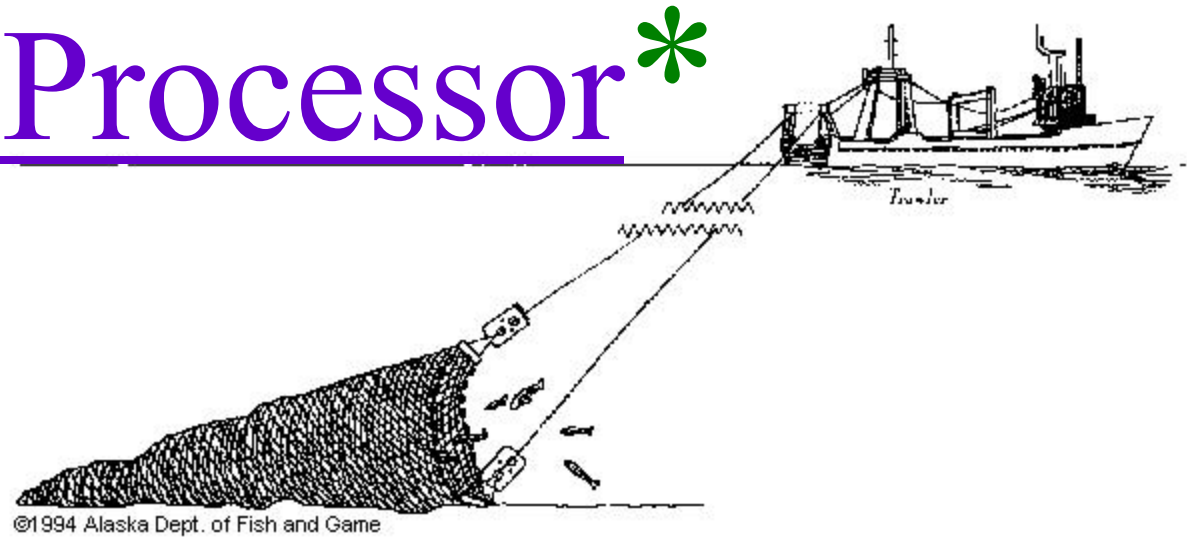


Crew size: 2

Vessel size: 30' to 40' long

Seasons: Sockeye, chum, coho salmon
frozen and canned, summer and fall.

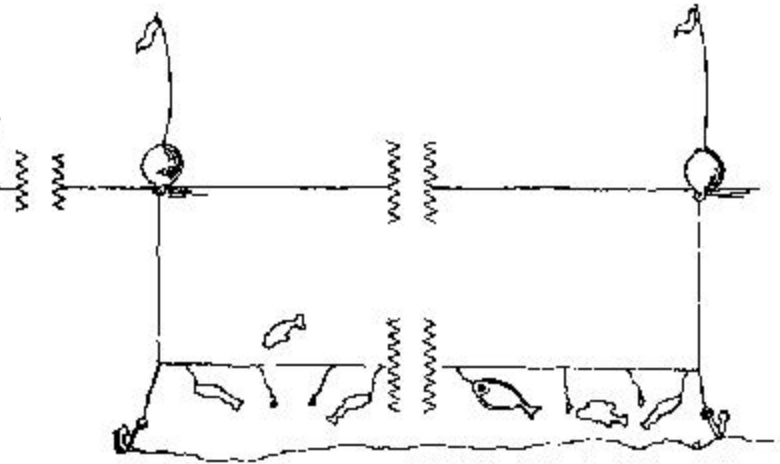
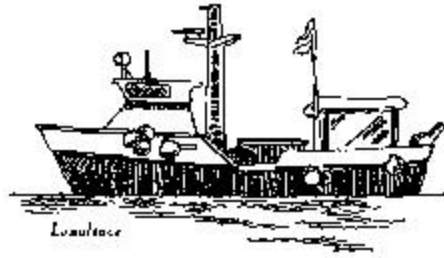
At-Sea Processor*



Deck Crew Size: 5 to 8 (Work way up from processing below deck)

Vessel Size: Up to 600' in length

Seasons: Midwater species, pollock (fillets, surimi), shrimp, flounder(fresh/frozen)



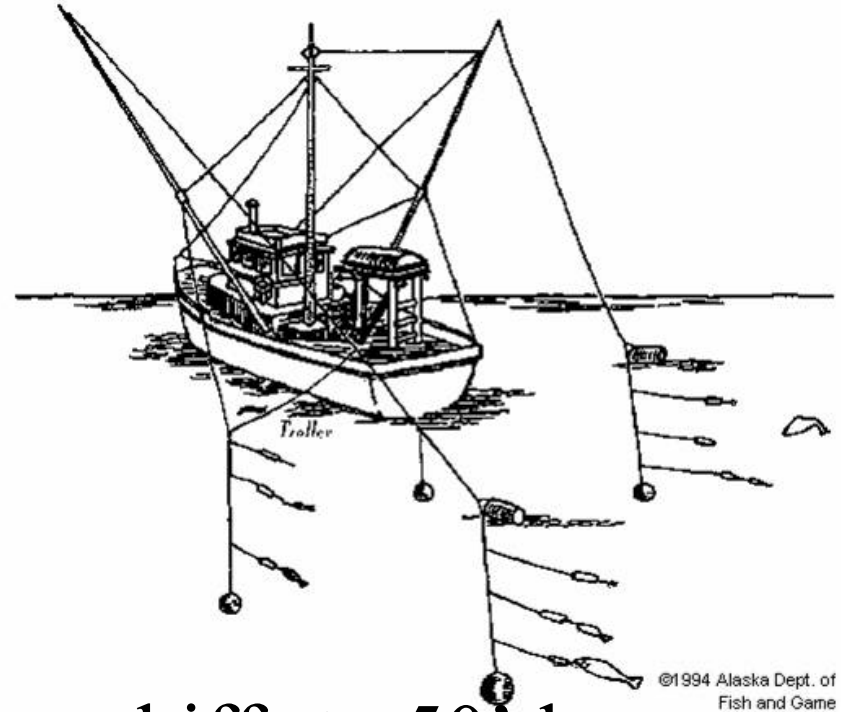
Longliner*

Crew size: 4 to 6

Vessel size: 30' to 100' in length

Seasons: Halibut, black cod, ling cod, rockfish, gray cod. Fresh/Frozen market

Troller*

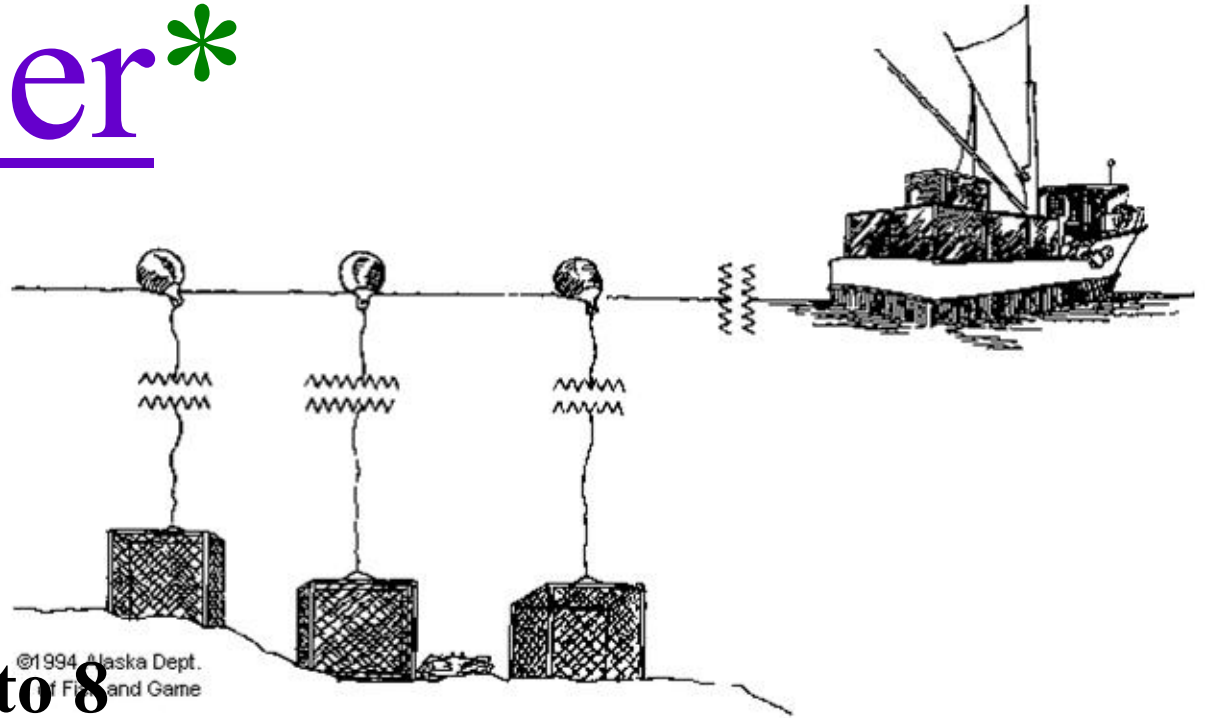


Crew size: 2

Vessel size: Variety from skiffs to 50' long

Seasons: Chinook, coho, pink salmon, low volume-high quality fresh/frozen market for fine restaurants/public markets.

Crabber*



Crew size: 2 to 8

Vessel size: Variety inside waters, Bering Sea & Gulf (100'+ in length)

Seasons: Dungeness, king, tanner crab.

Delivered live, canned/fresh/frozen markets.

Set Net*



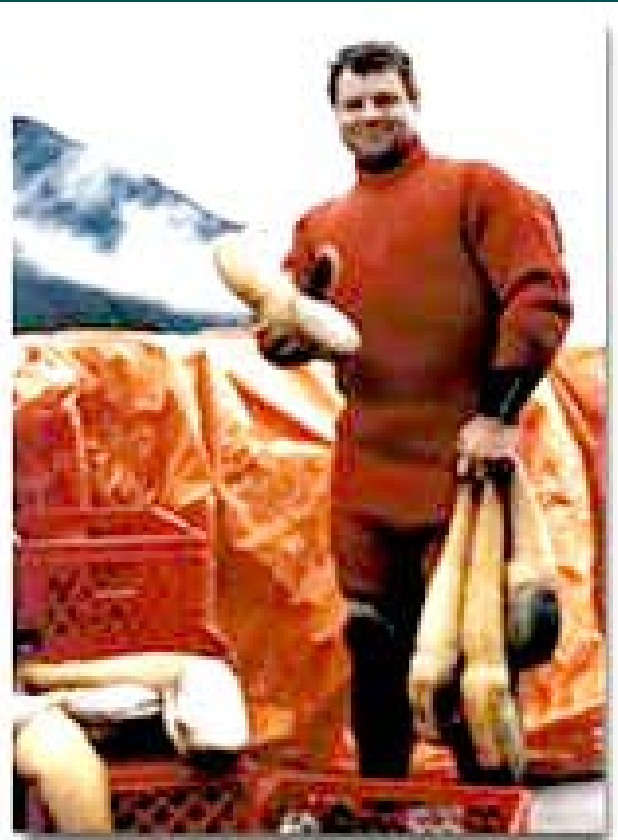
Crew size: 3 to 4

Vessel size: Use small skiffs

Seasons: Salmon. Run net off of beach and pick salmon off of net or haul into beach. Deliver fish to a tender.

Dive Fisheries*

- Sea Cucumber
- Sea Urchin
- Geoduck



Source: Underwater Harvesters Association (UHA)



Safety

First aid skills are valuable!
How to administer **CPR** and knowing where the USCG approved **survival suits** and life rings are stored is important. Know how to get into the life raft.



- **Each vessel should have a USCG inspection report that you can examine**
- **Contact Coast Guard regarding citations**
- **Talk with crew and others.**



Check Vessel Reputation

Resources

- ADF&G Information about Alaska's Salmon Industry *
- Labor's On-Line Fishing Jobs In Alaska brochure*

Division of Employment Security

Seafood Jobs in Alaska




State of Alaska > DOLWD > Employment Security > Seafood

If you are in Alaska, have Seafood industry experience, and are looking for work **we can help you!**

If you live in rural Alaska, call our **Seafood Employment Hotline** at: **800-473-0688**

If you live in Anchorage, call for daily updates: **269-4770 ext. 7**

****NOTICE - Fisherman who have lost income due to competition from farmed Salmon - Click Here****

Current Openings

Lists most seafood jobs currently open in the state of Alaska.

Alaska's Job Bank - Selection List

For a detailed description of a job, please click on the highlighted link below.

- [ALASKA](#) - SALMON ROE TECHNICIAN - \$ 8.42 PER HOUR
- [ANCHORAGE](#) - FILLET WORKER/FISH - \$ 9.00 PER HOUR

Quick Links...

- ▶ [Employment Security Home](#)
- ▶ [Recruitment](#)
- ▶ **[Anchorage Recruitments](#)**
- ▶ [Fishing Jobs in Alaska](#)
- ▶ [About Seafood Processing Jobs](#)
- ▶ [Seafood Industry Links](#)
- ▶ [Seafood Processing App](#)
- ▶ [Online Job Order Form](#)

Seafood Recruitment Announcements

Job fairs, seafood conferences and skilled seafood jobs are posted on this page.

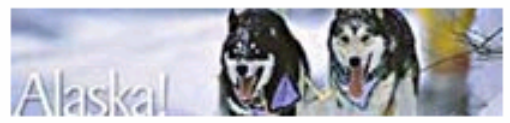
On-line Job Order Form

Another avenue for employers to list positions open for recruitment.



Division of Employment Security

Seafood Jobs in Alaska



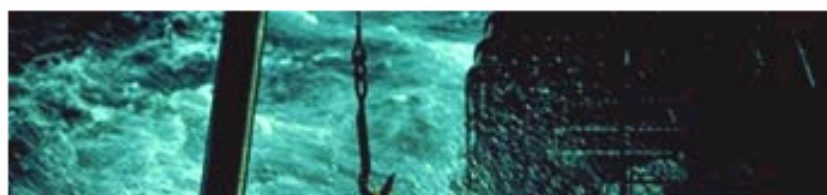
State of Alaska > DOLWD > Employment Security > Seafood

Seafood and Fishing Jobs in Alaska

WHAT CREW MEMBERS ON BOARD FISHING VESSELS IN ALASKA NEED TO KNOW

Many stories have been told about people who, with no trouble whatsoever, landed a job as a crew member in Alaska's fishing industry on a highliner fishing boat and made tons of money. There are published materials for sale which boast of lucrative jobs in canneries and on fishing boats. The reality is, that for every success, there are many failures. A prospective crew member's chance for a profitable season will be enhanced by careful assessment of job openings and close attention to details regarding any job offer.

During harvest seasons, prospective crew members must walk the fishing docks to follow up each word of mouth lead to speak with the skipper personally. The travel and waiting for such an opportunity can be costly, both physically and monetarily. Crew members rarely leave good jobs, so only a small percentage of hopefuls find their berth in this manner.



Quick Links...

- › Employment Security Home
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Another avenue for employers to list

ADF&G - Division of
Commercial Fisherieswww.cf.adfg.state.ak.us

Frequently Asked Questions

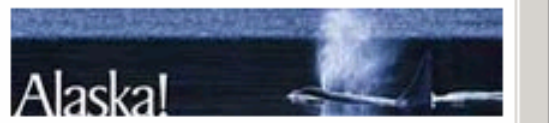


- [How can I get a job in Alaska's seafood industry? \(Where do I start?\)](#)
 - [What kind of money could I expect to make?](#)
 - [What kind of onboard jobs might be available?](#)
 - [Are some of these jobs dangerous?](#)
 - [What about cold storage or cannery jobs?](#)
 - [Who is **Multiplex Consultants** and if I send them money can they guarantee me a job?](#)
- [Where can I find catch statistics for Alaska's salmon? \[herring?\]\(#\) \[shellfish?\]\(#\) \[groundfish?\]\(#\)](#)
- [What is the value of Alaska's commercial fisheries? What does the management of these fisheries cost the State?](#)



Division of Employment Security

Seafood Jobs in Alaska



State of Alaska > DOLWD > Employment Security > Seafood

Seafood Company Links

- [Alaska General Seafoods](#)
- [Aleutian Pribilof Island Economic Development Association \(APICDA\)](#)
- [The Great Alaskan Seafood Company](#)
- [American Seafoods](#)
- [At-Sea Processors Association](#)
- [Copper River Seafoods](#)
- [Deep Sea Fisheries](#)
- [Icicle Seafoods](#)
- [Kodiak Salmon Packers](#)
- [Norquest Seafoods](#)
- [Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc.](#)
- [Pacific Star Seafoods](#)
- [Peter Pan Seafoods Inc.](#)
- [Petersburg Fisheries](#)
- [Saltwater, Inc.](#)
- [Seafood Producers Co-op](#)
- [Sitka Sound Seafoods](#)
- [Snopac Products](#)

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U.S. COAST GUARD

Merchant Mariner Licensing & Documentation



Home

Announcements

Renewal Guide

New Mariners ▶

Charter Boat Capt. ▶

**License, Document,
& Cert. of Registry** ▶

**Merchant Mariner
Info Center** ▶

STCW ▶

Application & Forms

User Fees

Drug Test Info

Links/Feedback ▶

Search/Site Map ▶

≡ Highlights: *information packs.* ≡

Welcome to the US Coast Guard Licensing website, a new site designed for quick and easy access to Coast Guard maintained licensing information. We invite your comments and questions as we launch this new version of the site. Please notify us of any errors you may find. For comments regarding the website, please contact the [Webmaster](#). If you need more assistance regarding licensing information, please contact your [local regional exam center](#).



- ***[New Mariner Information, License, Document, or Certificate of Registry Requirements](#)*** - Information and guidelines on US Mariner licensing and documentation requirements as well as how to meet the requirements.
- ***[Merchant Mariner Information Center](#)*** - Exam information and guidance for individuals working in the shipboard marine industry



Welcome to the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC)

Great careers for Alaska's future!

Home | Admissions | Training Programs & Courses | Training Cost & Dates Offered | Student Services

March 11, 2004



Admissions

- ▶ [Admissions & Financial Aid](#)
- ▶ [Apply Online](#)

Training Programs

- ▶ [Training Programs & Courses](#)
- ▶ [AVTEC online classes](#)
- ▶ [2004/2005 Training Cost & Dates](#)
- ▶ [Accreditation](#)

Student Services

- ▶ [Weekly News/Updates](#)
- ▶ [Student Services](#)



Set Your Sights on Success

Let AVTEC change the course of your career and future! Apply now for upcoming classes.

- [See Admissions Information Apply Online! It's easy and quick](#)
- [See a complete list of programs and courses](#)

 **Merchant Mariners**
Document (MMD) Program

Did You Know?

AVTEC is an authorized [Certiport iQcenter](#) providing [Microsoft Office Specialist](#) training and certification.



Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) Merchant Mariners Document (MMD) Program

[Home](#) | [Admissions](#) | [Training Programs/Courses](#) | [Training Cost/Dates](#) | [Student Services](#)



Welcome to the **Merchant Mariners Document (MMD)** Program page. AVTEC's Alaska Maritime Training Center in partnership with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development is offering a Merchant Mariners Document Program.



Training dates begin **April 5 through May 14, 2004**.
Training includes:

- Basic Safety Training
- Hazwoper
- Proficiency in Survival Craft
- Able Seaman
- Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch

The Merchant Mariner's Document Program is six weeks long. It is designed to assist current and prospective mariners obtain a USCG document required for people who work on tankers, freighters, tug boats, and ferries. Graduates will take four USCG STCW approved courses. The resulting documents and endorsements will enhance their employability in the Maritime Industry. Students will receive assistance in resume writing, job search, and interview training. Placement assistance will be available.



Special Thanks to the following organizations for use of their photographs and graphics:

- Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute
 - American Seafoods Company
 - At-Sea Processors Association
- AKDOL Seafood Employment Unit
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game



For more information on careers in the seafood industry, contact your nearest Alaska Job Center or go to www.jobs.state.ak.us "Seafood Jobs"

This presentation is a product of the Seafood Employment Program, Alaska State Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Spring 2004