



The Complete Navigation Guide to Maritime Employment

by James Laurence Pelletier/Marine Techniques Publishing

Synopsis

Mariner's Employment Guide

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by James Laurence Pelletier

U.S. Merchant Marine Staff Officer and Marine Engineer

Marine Techniques Publishing

Suite 266, 126 Western Avenue
Augusta ME 04330-7249 U.S.A.

Phone: +01 (207) 622-7984

Fax: +01 (207) 621-0821

Info@MarineTechPublishing.com

www.MarineTechPublishing.com

Genre:

Careers / Jobs / Labor / Manpower / Reference / Resource / Transportation (marine/maritime) and Marine Scientific / Marine Environmental / Marine Research and Marine Technology fields

Target Audience:

Career & Reference Libraries: maritime, aquatic, and nautical educational institutions; maritime, aquatic, and nautical employment agencies, organizations, associations, foundations, and institutions; junior high school, senior high school, 2 and 4 year college and university libraries; high school and college career counselors; public/memorial libraries

Individuals: maritime career counselors; junior high and senior high school career counselors; maritime career employees wishing to advance in their careers and/or explore new maritime career options; individuals interested in training, certification, and entry-level positions in the current broad and opportunity-laden fields of maritime employment

Book Specifications:

8.375" X 10.875" X 1.4", vertical, glued and Smythsewn (stitched) perfect bound, 12pt C1S softcover (four-color) gloss lamination cover finish, 598 pages, Includes 33 illustrations; hundreds of marine and scientific position descriptions and salary ranges; training, licensing and skill requirements; comprehensive directories of marine, aquatic, and nautical resources. Retail Price: \$85

Introductory Statement:

The Mariner's Employment Guide, is the most comprehensive, credible and current resource available for anyone considering a maritime fresh and salt water career and/or advancement within an already established maritime career. "This book should be on the bookshelf of not only every active merchant mariner, but also in the libraries of every high school and every guidance counselor's office in the country. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is seeking employment or who is already employed in the merchant marine," says Captain John R. Whiteley, Director of the Inland Waterways Academy at Marshall Community and Technical College, Huntington, West Virginia.

The National Association of Workforce Development Professionals comments, "Here's one job hunting guide you won't find in every Resource Room! This 598-page book covers the full spectrum of jobs in the merchant marine, from small passenger vessels and towboats to huge cruiseships, freighters, and tankers. It covers basic entry level procedures, licensing and other requirements. It contains more than 300 maritime job descriptions and salary ranges, and over 1700 listings for marine/aquatic employers, schools, employment agencies, associations, publishers, and bookstores. In addition to merchant

marine employment, the book also covers careers in shipyards, marine biology, ocean engineering, oceanography, geology, geophysics, naval architecture, commercial diving, marine surveyors, commercial and sport fishing, commercial yachting, culinary arts, hospitality management and more. An aging workforce and growing international trade have combined to create a potential shortage of merchant seamen.”

National Fisherman Magazine reports “If you’re thinking of jumping ship to escape the confines of your maritime or office job, hold off just long enough to get your hands on a copy of this guide. Painstakingly researched and compiled by U.S. Merchant Marine Staff Officer and Marine engineer James Laurence Pelletier, the “Mariner’s Employment Guide” may be the shot in the arm of your maritime career. If you’re new to the field, even better: Try starting with the succinct and straightforward history, current conditions and forecast for the U.S. maritime trade. This directory is laid out to take you step by step through a variety of merchant mariner, U.S. Coast Guard, and educational/training opportunities. But it also covers careers in the shipyards, marine biology, oceanography, commercial diving and fishing, surveying and much more. Within these various fields, Pelletier reviews average salaries, entry-level procedures, training requirements and options, national and international contacts, bookstores, and employment agencies, among many other features. The vast range of information in this guide is accessible and invaluable. Whether you’re an experienced merchant mariner, a guidance counselor or a frustrated cubicle dweller, get a copy for your shelf.”

About the Author:

James Laurence Pelletier has worked in the commercial marine transportation industry for close to forty years. His first job was shoreside, handling container shipments on merchant marine vessels for the Union Pacific and Santa Fe railroads at the Los Angeles Harbor in California. During the past twenty plus years, he’s sailed in foreign and domestic waters aboard offshore oil and deep-draft, deep-sea vessels and on coastal water vessels. Over the years, he has introduced many individuals to the maritime water transportation industry. According to Pelletier, “Some made it and some did not. Employment in the commercial marine industry has its pluses and minuses.”

As for himself, Pelletier states, “I’m sorry I didn’t start sooner. When I began to look for work in the commercial marine industry, I only had my machinist mate Navy petty officer experience. However, more important than my experience was that I had always wanted to be in the industry and enjoyed going to sea. One must really want to be in. One must go beyond what the average individual will not. It took me eighteen months before I received my first job offer aboard a civilian commercial merchant marine vessel. I jumped at it. It was a wipers position for eight months. I was in and a union member. In addition to my pay, I gained valuable experience, sea service and a better knowledge of the language and terms used in the industry. This helped me move up in this first company. In less than three months, I was sailing as QMED (qualified member of the engineering department). In just over two years I received my first officer’s license. Since then, I have sailed with many companies, both union and nonunion, U.S. and foreign flagged.”

Throughout the years, Pelletier continued his research and broadened his experience aboard various vessel types, picking up a significant amount of data and information along the way. “As I continually met individuals with questions about the industry, I began to realize that these questions merited more than a few quick answers within a brief conversation. Out of this process, this employment guide was born,” he reports. For Pelletier, this edition of the Mariner’s Employment Guide is a major update from various editions that have evolved since the first edition was published in 1983. He expects the work and the editions to evolve into the future. “I am ever responsive to input. Questions, comments and suggestions for future editions are always welcome.”

Pelletier comments on the state of today’s maritime industry. “Today, the men and women of the United States Merchant Marine and thousands of other water transportation related workers continue to make immeasurable contributions to our economic strength and our country’s ongoing efforts to build a more peaceful, stable, and sustainable world. As cargo volume is expected to double within the next twenty years and maritime transportation related employment is projected to increase by 70%, a viable maritime network is essential for the replacement of an aging workforce and continuing our countries maritime tradition of employing only U.S. citizens aboard our U.S. flagged vessels.”

Highlights / Content / Organization:

Introduction: Invaluable personal insights into securing and holding a job in the maritime industry introduce the book and are sprinkled throughout. The introduction also includes an overview of history of and the job situation in the United States Merchant Marine industry, including a discussion of U.S. Coast Guard Regional Examination Centers and how to obtain a Mariner's Credential.

United States Coast Guard Information: Now under the Department of Homeland Security, much information is provided about the United States Coast Guard licensing requirements and what contact information and procedures are necessary to obtain necessary certifications.

Shipboard Careers / Forms / Documentation / Licensing: This hundred-page section elaborates on training, certification, documentation, and skills needed to start and advance in a career in various aspects of the maritime industry. Covered topics include Merchant Mariner's Document (MMD), International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping of Seafarers (STCW), Able Seaman (AB), QMED (qualified member of engineering department), and climbing the Coast Guard ladder. Certifications for engineering department officers, licenses for radio officers, merchant mariner licenses, deck officers licenses for various types of passenger vessels, fishing industry vessels, ocean going vessels, and towing vessels are covered in this section. Information on U.S. Coast Guard approved training courses is included here, as well as a comprehensive discussion of forms, documents, and sample letters to help an aspiring maritime career novice get started. From drug-testing forms to fire fighting certification, the information presented is comprehensive and detailed.

Shipboard Position Descriptions and Average Salaries: From a general overview to specific details on various positions and salary ranges, this 150-page section, provides an overview of the various opportunities in the marine, aquatic, nautical field of employment with specific details regarding skills, training, experience, and certification requirements for each position. Salary ranges for each position, determined through Pelletier's extensive and comprehensive process of extensive maritime industry experience, contacts and research, are also included. Positions covered are extensive and broad-based. They include, for example, offshore oil and gas positions, jobs in shipbuilding and boat manufacturing, ocean engineering, careers aboard cruise ships, ferries, and yachts, naval architecture, marine surveying and investigation, and scientific careers at sea such as oceanography, geology, geophysics and more. Beyond a presentation of facts and statistics, Pelletier offers important pluses and minuses an aspiring employee might want to consider for various career choices to help one decide if he or she is suited to a specific career path and willing to do what is necessary to secure and maintain a chosen maritime career position.

Directories:

National and International Maritime Transportation Career Contacts (70 listings)
Includes top 20 commercial merchant marine fleets and largest oceans and seas of the world.

U.S. Water Transportation System: This section covers commercial waterway facilities and number of vessels. Includes top 20 U.S. water ports by shipment weight (tonnage) and top 20 U.S. foreign water trade freight gateways. Discusses a career in shipping (water transportation) ashore.

Maritime, Aquatic and Nautical Academies, Colleges, Universities, Marine Education Institutions, Technical Schools, and License Exam Preparation Schools: (620 listings)
Updated contact information is provided.

Maritime, Aquatic and Nautical Marine Employment Agencies, Vessel Crewing / Manning companies, Maritime Unions, Job Search and Marine Headhunters: (145 listings)
Updated contact information is provided.

Maritime, Aquatic and Nautical Associations, Foundations, Institutions, Organizations, and Societies: (512 listings) - also included are publications published by each specific group (newsletters, journals, books, magazines)
Updated contact information is provided.

Maritime, Aquatic and Nautical Publishing Companies - - Magazines, Newspapers, Newsletters, Books and Journals: (162 listings)
Updated contact information is provided.

Maritime, Aquatic and Nautical Bookstores and Educational Aids: (152 listings)

Updated contact information is provided.

Glossary of Maritime, Aquatic and Nautical Terms and Words: (1525 listings)

Useful information for those serious candidates wanting to familiarize themselves with the terms and definitions tied to the maritime industry. From “abaft” to Zulu time”, a significant education in maritime culture can be gleaned from studying this section alone.

Summary:

The demand for workers in the maritime field is at an all time high. The “Mariner’s Employment Guide” is the most comprehensive resource and complete navigation guide to maritime employment available. The book is highly recommended by an impressive number of experienced professionals in the maritime industry and associated organizations and educational institutions and training centers. The book is best summarized by the comments of professionals in the field.

Captain Tuuli Messer-Bookman, Esq., Associate Professor of the Marine Transportation Department of the California Maritime Academy, Vallejo, California, comments, “I referenced an early edition of The Mariner’s Employment Guide when I was a young cadet, just graduating Kings Point and hungry for a job. Now, twenty years later, I am impressed by the many improvements and enhancements made to this new edition, especially the excellent distillation of STCW and USCG requirements and clear information on career tracks. I have yet to find a more comprehensive or well organized marine employment guide anywhere. This book is an invaluable resource to anyone searching for or even just considering maritime employment. I heartily recommend this text to all maritime training centers, libraries, and high school counselors. As I work primarily with senior cadets at the California Maritime Academy, I will be recommending the Guide to my students as they begin their job searches.” In a hat’s off to Pelletier, she adds, “You have really done an outstanding job and I commend your efforts.”

Captain Carl Moore, Marine Operations Coordinator at the Louisiana Technical College, Young Memorial Campus, Morgan City, Louisiana, says: “This edition is an outstanding example of a well-thought-out and well-laid-out reference manual. It is representative of every area of the maritime industry and will aid both the beginner and the Master that may be on his 5th issue. All areas, including maritime history, service requirements, and differing vessel types and sizes are covered. Practical topics range from Coast Guard procedures to employment opportunities with pay scales. Information is backed up with reference links for each area covered. This manual is a “must have” for every reference library. I highly recommend it to those seeking guidance in this field.”

Dr. Ann Gillis-Waiters, Chief Executive Officer of the Maritime Academy Charter High School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, writes: “Congratulations on producing your outstanding Mariner’s Employment Guide. As the largest fresh water port in the world, the Port of Philadelphia provides thousands of jobs that underpin our region’s economy. We created the Maritime Academy Charter High School in 2003 hoping to open doors of opportunity for inner city students to learn about and aspire to careers in maritime industries and become functioning members of this area’s vibrant maritime economy. Your employment guide is a solid answer to our need to have a single, comprehensive source for our staff and students to get information about maritime employment opportunities, where the jobs are, how to get them, and what they pay. It’s a wonderful volume that we expect to use in our maritime career exploration classes with our high school freshmen and with parents who can help guide their children to strive for maritime careers. Thank you for providing us with an excellent learning tool.”

Captain Steve Beuth, Professor of Nautical Science, and Master of the offshore marine technology vessel R/V Dan Moore at the Cape Fear Community College, Marine Technology Department, Wilmington, North Carolina, comments: “I heartily commend you for the comprehensive scope of your work. It should be a tremendous asset to any aspiring candidate for employment in the vast, and often complex, maritime, marine science, and marine technology fields. The Guide, while sweeping in its scope, is yet user-friendly and direct in its mode of “navigation” (to use your cover page term) guidance. More than simply a compilation of lists and tables, the plain language employed in discussing details speaks to the heart of someone yearning for clear vocational direction. For example, the advice offered on pursuing a marine mammal research career is a necessary dose of reality for the fair percentage of our entering Freshmen students each year who come inclined in that direction. Likewise the advice provided for aspiring diving professionals and yacht delivery crewmen is most vital.” In a hat’s off to Pelletier, he adds, “I offer a sincere closing salute for your tremendous achievement in authoring this vital work.”