

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION
RESEARCH VESSEL CAPTAIN

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of This Classification Specification

This classification specification is the basic authority under ER 2.04, Wis. Adm. Code, for making classification decisions relative to present and future positions that function as captain of a research vessel. This classification specification will not specifically identify every eventuality or combination of duties and responsibilities of positions that currently exist, or those that result from changing program emphasis in the future. Rather, it is designed to serve as a framework for classification decision-making in this occupational area.

Classification decisions must be based on the “best fit” of the duties within the existing classification structure. The “best fit” is determined by the majority (i.e., more than 50%) of the work assigned to and performed by the position when compared to the class concepts and definition of this specification or through other methods of position analysis. Position analysis defines the nature and character of the work through the use of any or all of the following: definition statements; listing of areas of specialization; representative examples of work performed; allocation patterns of representative positions; job evaluation guide charts, standards or factors; statements of inclusion and exclusion; licensure or certification requirements; and other such information necessary to facilitate the assignment of positions to the appropriate classification.

B. Inclusions

This classification encompasses positions that operate and maintain research vessels used by the Department of Natural Resources. The research vessels are used to conduct a wide variety of research functions and may also be used for law enforcement purposes within the Department of Natural Resources.

C. Exclusions

Excluded from this classification are the following types of positions:

1. Positions that meet the definition of confidential or supervisor as defined in s. 111.81(7) and (19), Wis. Stats., as interpreted and administered by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission.
2. Positions which are more appropriately classified as Research Vessel Crew Leader.
3. All other positions that are more appropriately identified by other classification specifications.

D. Entrance Into This Classification

Employees enter positions within this classification by competition.

II. DEFINITIONS

RESEARCH VESSEL CAPTAIN

Positions are responsible for all aspects of operation and maintenance of a research vessel. The primary responsibility is to operate a vessel year round under potentially hazardous conditions to conduct a variety of research related activities. Operation includes navigation of the vessel using a global positioning system (GPS), autopilot, GPS/autopilot interface, radar, marine radio, compass, depth sounder or dead reckoning and maintenance of vessel logs and records. Duties include oversight and direction of the crew in deploying and retrieving research equipment; determination of safe operating conditions and when to cease operations because of hazardous working conditions; compliance with all state and federal laws on safety for operation of the vessel; oversight of the maintenance of the navigation, electrical, and mechanical systems; and direction of the maintenance and repair of docks, buildings, equipment, and other gear involved in completing objectives.

Representative Positions:

Department of Natural Resources: In addition to the work described in the general definition statement positions build, maintain and repair the inventory of gill nets, marker buoys, anchors and other research-sampling gear, and are responsible for the assessment of sport and commercial fisheries on the Great Lakes, which requires the operation of various types of power boats loaded with assessment gear on the Lakes in a wide variety of weather and sea conditions.

III. QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications required for these positions will be determined at the time of recruitment. Such determinations will be made based on an analysis of the goals and worker activities performed and by an identification of the education, training, work, or other life experience which would provide reasonable assurance that the knowledge and skills required upon appointment have been acquired.

Special Requirement: U.S. Coast Guard Master's License for Great Lakes, 100 tons or more, and Inland waters, inspected or uninspected.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

This classification was created effective July 24, 2005 and announced in Bulletin OSER-0072-MRS/SC Positions in this classification were formerly classified as Research Technician 4.

This classification was modified effective June 12, 2016, and announced in Bulletin DPM-0425-CC/SC to remove a references to the UW System and a representative for UW-Milwaukee.