

CHRISTOPHER SPARKS

📍 5555 N. Circuit Dr., Beaumont, TX, 77706 📞 409.739.3096 ✉ sparks_c@hotmail.com



PILOT; CAPTAIN; SHIPS OFFICER; SHORE SIDE VESSEL MANAGEMENT

Area of Focus: Harbor Pilot/ Cruise/Passenger/Maritime/Oil and Gas Industry

QUALIFICATIONS PROFILE

Seasoned, multifaceted, and detail-oriented professional, with broad-based experience in all facets of ship and vessel operations. Well-versed in performing assigned duties while maintaining compliance with set-forth safety and environmental policies. Adept at overseeing activities within the assigned area and directing deck and engine crew to ensure ship stability. Armed with exceptional skills in conducting incident investigations and preparing and submitting reports to management.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

**Ship Navigation | Inventory Maintenance | Vessel Administration
Crew Management | Ship Safety Inspection | Client Interaction**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M University Galveston- Texas Maritime Academy | Galveston, TX

Associate Professor

August 2021-Present

- Associate professor of the arts at Texas Maritime Academy. Instructing students in both Freshman and upper-level maritime courses mandated by the USCG for completion of their education for a 3rd Mates License.

Baker Marine Solutions | Covington, LA

Senior Marine Surveyor

April 2021-Present

- Perform all types of requested surveys and act on behalf of our clients, primarily major oil companies such as BP and Chevron.
- Act as client representative on projects to ensure vessel operations are handled properly and safely through a successful project completion.
- Provide vessel oversight rides including audit of the vessel and performance evaluation of the vessel and its personnel.

McDermott International | Houston, TX

Master

2015-April 2021

Chief Mate | Relief Captain

2013-2015

- Take charge of McDermott DB-50 Heavy Lift construction ship, as well as offshore construction and subsea operations, ship management, client interaction, ship stability, ISM and company compliance, and HSE management and compliance while directing 320 crew members.
- Demonstrate exceptional skills in maintaining safe operation within the vessel, safety of personnel onboard, and protection of marine environment.
- Provide decisions in line with safety and pollution prevention and requests for company assistance.
- Initiate safety and environmental protection policy and confirm adherence to requirements.
- Evaluate safety management system and communicate its deficiencies to shore-based management.
- Serve as manager and vessel representative, in charge of ensuring the safe operation of the vessel and marine environment safety.
- Maintain compliance with all safety regulations, applicable rules and legislation, flag state, and coastal state.
- Work with OCM and superintendent regarding construction matters to meet client requirements and expectations while promoting general safety and harmony.
- Manage all vessel movements which include navigation, dynamic positioning (DP), and anchoring.
- Exemplify skills in controlling vessel communications, warehouse, medical facilities, catering, and hotel and vessel housekeeping activities.
- Effectively supervise crews and subcontractors thus ensuring proper maintenance of the vessel and equipment.
- Prepare and submit logbooks, daily records, maintenance records, and permits in alignment with company and regulatory requirements.
- Oversee overall QHSES which include permit to work system, behavioral based safety management system, task risk analysis, safety auditing, chair of crew welfare and safety committees, training, and compliance.

U. S. Shipping Corporation | Edison, NJ

2nd Mate

2013

- Acted as navigation officer and Cargo PIC, as well as spearheaded ballast operations during assigned watches.
- Demonstrated skills in finalizing maintenance to vessels cargo equipment and gauging systems.

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Maersk Line, Limited | Norfolk, VA

2nd Mate, United States Naval Ship Effective (TAGOS-21)

2011-2013

- Served as navigation officer and worked within direct naval control of Commander Task Force 74.
- Assumed accountability in holding secret clearance for United States Government and provided expert oversight to classified material.
- Cooperated with US Navy commander on board to guarantee on-time completion of all ships missions while performing regular PM inspections and deck work.
- Observed proper operation within the vessel while towing subsea arrays and cables.

Twentieth Century Fox |

1st Mate, 180' Yacht, Motor Yacht Stargazer

2010-2011

- Coordinated vessel operations, maintenance, ISM compliance, and deck and engine crew, along with movie crews during filming of a movie by Twentieth Century Fox.

B.P. Corporation | Tampa, Florida

Project Manager | Ship Superintendent

2010

- Handled full dry docking, stage 3 decontamination, and commercial repair work to large oil field vessels.
- Collaborated with vessel crew, United States Coast Guard (USCG) inspectors, surveyors, and shipyard personnel.

U.S. Shipping Corporation | Edison, NJ

2nd Mate

2009-2010

- Held responsibility for dry cargo and grain ships within the International Trade while functioning as acting captain on product and chemical tankers in lay-up status.

EARLIER CAREER

Cruise West | Seattle, WA

2nd Mate

2010

2nd Mate | Chief Mate- Small Cruise Ships

2008

Laborde Marine | Morgan City, LA

Captain | 1st Mate- Supply vessels, Crew Boats

2008-2009

Alaska Tanker Company | Beaverton, OR

3rd Mate- Oil Tankers

U. S. Shipping Corporation | Edison, NJ

3rd Mate- Chemical and Product Tankers

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Marine Transportation: 2006- USCG 3rd Mate Unlimited License

Texas A&M University at Galveston (Texas Maritime Academy) | Galveston, TX

All Upgrade and Maritime Training

STAR Center | Fort Lauderdale, FL

Maritime Professional Training | Fort Lauderdale, FL

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Licenses:

USCG Master's Unlimited Tonnage Oceans License

Panama Master's License Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Master's II/2

Nautical Institute Dynamic Positioning Operator (DPO) Unlimited

Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Radio Operators License

Trainings and Certifications

Anti- Piracy Training Certificate | Life Boatman | Authorized Gas Tester | Vessel Security Officer

Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training (BOSIET) and Further Offshore Emergency Training (FOET)

SafeGulf | Tankerman Dangerous Liquids PIC | Confined Space Entry and Rescue | STCW 2010 Compliant

Medical Care Provider, Medical Person in Charge | Radar and ARPA | Bridge Resource Management | ABS NS-5

Fast Rescue Boat Endorsement | STCW Crowd Management | Basic and Advanced Marine Fire Fighting

STCW Crisis Management | Helicopter Landing Officer | Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities

STCW Shipboard Management | STCW ECDIS | MSC Level 1 Anti-Terrorism | MSC Trafficking in Persons Training

MSC Visual Observer Training | MSC Small Arms Training | Vessel Security Officer | MSC Basic CBR Defense | Permit to Work

Task Risk Assessment | Job Hazard Analysis | Incident Investigation | Manned Model Ship Handling

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Member, Council of American Master Mariners

TECHNICAL ACUMEN

Windows Office | ABS NS-5 Planned Maintenance System | ABS NS-5 Ordering Systems

ABS NS-5 and MAPS Personnel Tracking System | ABS NS-5 Payroll System | Synergi Incident and Action Tracking System

Kongsberg | GE Converteam | Beier DP Systems