

ERIC WATSON

USCG LICENSED CAPTAIN PROFESSIONAL MARINER AND EXPERT

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USCG Licensed 200 ton Master Mariner with auxiliary sailing and commercial assistance towing endorsements. Over 24 years command experience on a wide range of sea going vessels, including sailing vessels up to 139 ft and power vessels up to 280 ft. Experience includes tall ship sailing, offshore oil & gas support vessels, yachts, charter boats, and small cruise ships. My vast experience makes me a standout candidate for project management, consulting, and expert witness services.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CAPTAIN

American Cruise Lines | Nationwide, USA

07/2022 – Present

- 2025:
 - *American Legend* - 240ft cruise ship: Captain
 - Captain on 7 day cruises along coastal waters of New England.
 - *American Patriot* - 260ft cruise ship: Captain
 - Captain for inaugural cruise / maiden voyage on 14 day cruise along New England Coast. Continued as Captain for 14 day cruises along New England Coast.
 - Captain for ships' christening ceremony in Newport, RI.
 - Captain for repositioning voyage and shakedown down cruise from Cambridge, MD. to Fall River, MA.
 - Captain for sea trials and managed commissioning of a new cruise ship.
 - *American Independence* - 220ft cruise ship: Captain
 - Captain for seven day cruises along coastal waters between Florida and Maine.
- 2024:
 - *American Legend* - 240ft cruise ship: Captain
 - Captain for seven day cruises along Gulf Coast waters between Tampa Bay and Key West, FL.
 - Captain for sea trials and commissioning of new build ship.
 - *American Glory* - 240ft cruise ship: Captain
 - Captain for seven, ten, and fourteen day cruises along the New England Coast.
 - *American Eagle* - 240ft cruise ship: Captain
 - Captain for seven day cruises along coastal waters between New York and Florida.

- *American Independence* - 220ft cruise ship: Captain
 - Captain for seven day cruises along coastal waters between Florida and Maine.
- *American Constitution* - 280ft cruise ship: Captain
 - Captain for seven day cruises along coastal waters between Virginia and Maine.

- 2023:
 - *American Independence* - 220ft cruise ship: Captain
 - Captain for seven day cruises along coastal waters between Florida and Maine.
 - *American Constellation* - 280ft cruise ship: Captain
 - Captain for ten day cruises on Puget Sound - Washington State.

- 2022:
 - *American Independence* - 220ft cruise ship: Captain
 - Captain for seven day cruises along coastal waters between Maine and Florida.

CAPTAIN

LeBarge Tropical Cruises | Sarasota, FL.

07/2021 – 07/2022

- *LeBarge* - 60ft passenger charter vessel: Captain
 - Responsible for safe voyages on Sarasota Bay.
 - Conducted new crew orientation and safety training, as well as recurring training for more seasoned crew.
 - Planned and conducted USCG required safety drills with all crew assigned to the vessel.
 - Performed daily vessel inspections of vessel structure and systems and reported deficiencies to vessel manager.

CAPTAIN

Alliance Offshore | Larose, LA.

01/2019 – 03/2020

- *Capt. Trey* - 145ft Offshore Supply Vessel: Captain
 - Responsible for safe voyages on coastal waters between Port Fourchon, LA and Corpus Christie, TX.
 - Conducted new crew orientation and safety training, as well as recurring training for other crew.
 - Planned and conducted USCG required safety and security drills with all crew assigned to the vessel.
 - Performed daily vessel inspections of vessel and systems and reported deficiencies to engineer and home office.

- Provided support to offshore oil and gas installations.
- Provided support to foreign flagged ships off the Galveston coast, as far as 100nm offshore for the Ultra Large Crude Carriers.

CAPTAIN

Yacht Starship Cruises I Tampa, FL.

01/2017 – 01/2019

- *Yacht Starship II* - 130ft Dinner Cruise Vessel: Captain
 - Responsible for safe voyages on Tampa Bay.
 - Conducted new crew orientation and safety training, as well as recurring training for other crew.
 - Planned and conducted USCG required safety drills with all crew assigned to the vessel.
 - Represented company and vessel for USCG inspections.
 - USCG had local media attend one of my annual safety inspections for a public outreach campaign they were conducting. USCG said my vessel was picked because they knew my vessel would pass the inspection.
 - Performed daily vessel inspections of vessel and systems and reported deficiencies to engineer and Director of Marine Operations.
 - Conducted brunch and dinner cruises for the public on Tampa Bay.
 - Conducted numerous private charters, most popular being weddings. Voted #1 wedding venue in Tampa Bay area.
 - I officiated over 50 weddings on this vessel.
- *Yacht Starship* - 180ft Dinner Cruise Vessel: Captain
 - Responsible for safe voyages on Tampa Bay and surrounding waters.
 - Conducted new crew orientation and safety training, as well as recurring training for other crew.
 - Trained new hire captains including vessel maneuvering, company policies, and vessel particulars.
 - Performed daily inspections of vessel and systems and reported deficiencies to engineer and Director of Marine Operations.
 - Conducted brunch, dinner, late night "party" and private charters on Tampa Bay and surrounding waters with up to 600 guests and 50 crew.
- *Yacht Starship III* - 100ft Dinner Cruise Vessel: Captain
 - Responsible for safe voyages on Tampa Bay, Clearwater Harbor and surrounding waters.
 - Conducted new crew orientation and safety training, as well as recurring training for other crew.
 - Trained new hire captains including vessel maneuvering, company policies, and vessel particulars.
 - Performed daily inspections of vessel and systems and reported deficiencies to engineer and Director of Marine Operations.
 - Conducted brunch, dinner, and private charters for up to 100 guests.

CAPTAIN

Harvey Gulf International Marine I New Orleans, LA.

10/2013 – 01/2015

- *M/V Harvey Cowboy* - 220ft DP2 Offshore Supply Vessel: Captain
 - Responsible for safe voyages between Galveston, TX. and Perdido Oil Rig - located approx. 200nm south of Galveston, TX.
 - Oversaw all vessel operations at the deepest drilling / production oil installation in the world.
 - Participated in weekly safety meetings with Shell Oil Co. outlining weekly vessel operations and interface between vessel and offshore installation. We were writing the book on how to safely conduct ultra deep water operations with floating installations. Perdido is located in approx. 8,000ft of water.
 - Planned and conducted USCG required safety and security drills with all crew assigned to the vessel.
 - Trained all new crew assigned to vessel and weekly recurring training for all crew.
 - Trained new captains regarding vessel particulars, systems, scope of job, vessel maneuvering, and company/charter client policies.
 - Represented company and vessel for United States Coast Guard and American Bureau of Shipping inspections.
 - Performed daily vessel inspections of vessel and systems. Reported deficiencies to engineer and Port Captain.
 - Vessel training, operations, and documents/forms were frequently audited by 3rd party auditors, client represented auditors, and in-house auditors.

CAPTAIN

Abdon Callais Offshore I Golden Meadow, LA.

10/2008 – 10/2013

- *M/V ACO Jessica Moore* - 220ft DP2 Offshore Supply Vessel: Captain
 - Responsible for safe voyages between Galveston, TX. and Perdido Oil Rig - located approx. 200nm south of Galveston, TX.
 - Oversaw all vessel operations at the deepest drilling / production oil installation in the world.
 - Participated in weekly safety meetings with Shell Oil Co. outlining weekly vessel operations and interface between vessel and offshore installation. We were writing the book on how to safely conduct ultra deep water operations with floating installations. Perdido is located in approx. 8,000ft of water.
 - Captain for Lockheed Martin / Chevron joint charter where Lockheed Martin was conducting field tests / Research and Development of Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) and proving technology to Chevron.
 - AUV is small, unmanned submarine used for security and installation inspections.
 - Set transponder baskets on sea bed using Remote Operated Vehicles (ROV) for Chevron Big Foot oil field. Transponder baskets were used by drill ship for station keeping purposes when developing Big Foot oil field.
 - Set North, South, East, West markers on sea bed for each well being drilled in Big Foot oil field.
 - Planned and conducted USCG required safety and security drills with all crew assigned to

- the vessel.
- Trained all new crew assigned to vessel and weekly recurring training for all crew.
- Trained new captains regarding vessel particulars, systems, scope of job, vessel maneuvering, and company/charter client policies.
- Represented company and vessel for United States Coast Guard and American Bureau of Shipping inspections.
- Performed daily vessel inspections of vessel and systems. Reported deficiencies to engineer and Port Captain.
- Vessel training, operations, and documents/forms were frequently audited by 3rd party auditors, client represented auditors, and in-house auditors.
- *M/V Nicholas P Callais* - 220ft DP2 Offshore Supply Vessel: Captain
- *M/V Harold J Callais* - 180ft Offshore Supply Vessel: Captain
- *M/V Christopher Callais* - 180ft Offshore Supply Vessel: Captain

CAPTAIN

Boredelon Marine I Houma, LA.

10/2007 – 10/2008

- *M/V Terry Boredelon* - 150ft DP1 Mini Offshore Supply Vessel: Captain
 - Responsible for safe voyages to numerous offshore installations across the Gulf Coast, between Mobile, AL. and Galveston, TX.
 - Trained all new hire crew and recurring training for experienced crew, including USCG safety and security drills.
 - Represented vessel and company for USCG inspections.

SHIPWRIGHT

Smith Marine Railway I Dare, VA.

05/2005 – 09/2007

- Shipwright for numerous client vessels - specialized in wood vessel construction:
 - Hauled out / Launched numerous vessels on marine railway system that started operations in 1842.
 - Replaced planks, frames, bulwarks, ceilings, rubrails, and even a forefoot.
 - Construction types included carvel planked, strip planked, and Chesapeake deadrise style vessels.
 - Maintained shipyard systems and equipment, including the rail system and gears that dated as far back as 1842.
 - Assisted with training USCG inspectors regarding wood vessel construction and inspection best practices.

FLEET CAPTAIN

Liberty Fleet of Tall Ships | Boston, MA.

10/2002 – 04/2005

- *S/V Liberty Clipper* - 125ft 2-mast Gaff Rigged Schooner: Captain / Fleet Captain
 - Captain for six voyages between Key West, FL. and Boston, MA.
 - Responsible for safe day sail cruises in Key West Harbor and Boston Harbor.
 - Responsible for all vessel maintenance and crew schedules on both *Liberty Clipper* and *Liberty*.
 - Scheduled, prepared, and represented vessel and company for all United States Coast Guard inspections.
 - Taught traditional vessel sailing to new hire crew, and recurring training for experienced crew.
 - Oversaw underway sail training programs with youth programs - provided safe voyages that ranged from a few hours to 7 days along New England coast for youth in 8th to 12th grades.
 - Managed 3 month dry dock period where approx 70% - 80% of Liberty Clippers bottom was replaced:
 - Oversaw ships crew of 12 - managing day to day maintenance and repair projects.
 - Liaison and managed shipyard crew of up to 12 welders removing and inserting new steel in areas deemed weak.
 - Represented vessel / company / shipyard for up to three USCG inspections per week for the scope of work being conducted.
- *S/V Liberty* - 80ft 2-mast Gaff Rigged Schooner: Captain
 - Responsible for safe day sail cruises in Key West Harbor.
 - Responsible for all vessel maintenance and crew schedules.
 - Trained new hire crew and recurring training for experienced crew, including USCG required safety drills.
 - Represented vessel / company for annual USCG inspections.

DECKHAND / MATE

Historic Ships of America | Key West, FL.

06/2000 – 03/2002

- *S/V America* - 139ft 2-mast Gaff Rigged Schooner: Deckhand / Mate
 - Delivery deckhand from Key West to Albany, NY.
 - Full time deckhand on daysails in Key West Harbor.
 - Participated in OpSail 2000 sailing from Miami, FL to Boston, MA. in company with a fleet of other Tall Ships.
 - Tall Ship ports included: Miami, FL. Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Little Creek, VA. Hampton, VA. Philadelphia, PA. Atlantic City, NJ. New York, NY. Nantucket, MA. and Boston, MA.
 - Conducted public daysails and private charters in Boston Harbor remainder of summer 2000.
 - Participated in multi-month dry dock in Albany, NY:
 - Overhauled vessel systems.
 - Replaced all 54 house batteries.

- Overhauled all running and standing rigging. I was tasked with having rigging ready when masts were stepped for efficient operations.
- Replaced main mast. Removed old wood main mast and had new carbon fiber mast manufactured and assisted with prep and install of new mast.
- Sailed between Key West and New England on six different voyages.
- Promoted to 2nd Mate after demonstrating strong working knowledge of vessel, systems and handling characteristics.
- Sailed with 12 Senators on daysail in Nantucket, MA.
- Sailed with President of Armenia and Azerbaijan for Peace Talks in Key West.
 - Participated in 10 days of security checks with secret service and FBI for this sail.
 - Had five vessel security escort in Key West Harbor for duration of voyage.

EDUCATION / LICENSES / CERTIFICATES

ACCIDENT AND FRAUD INVESTIGATION w/EXPERT WITNESS U. S. Surveyors Association	02/2014
CARGO INSPECTION CERTIFICATE U.S. Surveyors Association	02/2014
RECREATIONAL & SMALL COMMERCIAL VESSEL SURVEYING U. S. Surveyors Association	02/2014
USSA MASTER MARINE SURVEYOR U. S. Surveyors Association	02/2014
UNLIMITED DYNAMIC POSITIONING OPERATOR (expired) Nautical Institute - London.	03/2011
DYNAMIC POSITIONING ADVANCED OPERATOR Kongsberg - Houston, TX.	03/2010
DYNAMIC POSITIONING BASIC OPERATOR Kongsberg - Houston, TX.	11/2009
USCG MASTER 200 TON, NEAR COASTAL (current) United States Coast Guard	06/2002

EXPERTISE

- Maritime Operations
- Vessel Navigation
- Vessel Maintenance
- Yacht Operations
- Crew Training
- USCG Compliance
- DP Operations
- Maritime Safety
- Vessel Security