

Capt. Charles “Bryan” Rice
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Currently serving as a full-time maritime instructor at South Louisiana in Morgan City, Louisiana, I am a highly seasoned maritime professional with over 37 years of comprehensive experience spanning both direct on-water operations and dedicated maritime education. My career journey has led me to my current 1,600-ton Master Uninspected Fishing Vessel and 1,600 Ton Mate Inspected Vessel licenses, and endorsements. This extensive background uniquely positions me to impart practical knowledge, and foster the next generation of maritime leaders.

My maritime career commenced in 1987, where I served as a Mate on a Menhaden Fishing Vessel for Zapata Corporation and gained foundational experience in vessel operations. Through consistent dedication, I ascended to the position of Captain by 1996. I further expanded my career experience beyond fishing operations through my work as a Mate on various offshore supply vessels for Trico Marine during the off-season. Through these roles, I have consistently held vital U.S Coast Guard licenses and endorsements, including Able Seaman Unlimited, Radar Observer Unlimited, and Lifeboatman, affirming my qualifications and adherence to the highest standards of maritime safety and navigation.

Serving as an adjunct maritime instructor from 2003 to 2024, I played a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of maritime professionals. Over two decades, I consistently delivered comprehensive training in vital areas such as STCW Basic Safety, Radar Unlimited/Inland navigation, 100 Ton Master vessel operation, Apprentice Mate Steersman duties, and critical Survival Craft Proficiencies. My methodology often involved immersing students in practical scenarios such as notably through advanced Wheelhouse Simulations. These simulations were instrumental in providing students with hands-on experience, significantly enhancing their comprehension of complex navigational techniques, adherence to strict safety protocols, and effective decision-making under pressure, ensuring they were well-prepared for successful and safe careers at sea.

Education

Studied and completed courses at Louisiana Marine and Petroleum Institute

Licenses And Endorsements

1600 ton Master Uninspected fishing Vessel

1600 ton Mate Inspected vessels

STCW certified

Radar observer Unlimited

Able bodied seafarer Unlimited

Lifeboatman

FCC GMDSS Radio Operators License

Marine Industry Experience

1987-1995 Zapata Corporation

Served as Mate of Menhaden Fishing Vessels. Responsible for navigation of vessel during fishing operations and general navigation in and out of port.

1996-2005 Zapata/Omega Protein Corporation

Served as Captain of Menhaden Fishing Vessels, Responsible the harvesting of menhaden from the Gulf of Mexico during the menhaden fishing season (Mid -April thru Nov 1st) Also responsible for the safety of a crew of 15 and safe navigation of the vessel at all times.

1998-2000 (off-season)

Served as Mate for Trico Marine on various Oilfield Supply Vessels.

2007-2024 Westbank Fishing LLC

Served as Captain of Menhaden Fishing Vessels, Responsible the harvesting of menhaden from the Gulf of Mexico during the menhaden fishing season (Mid -April thru Nov 1st) Also responsible for the safety of a crew of 15 and safe navigation of the vessel at all times.

Maritime Instructional History

2003-2024 (off-season) Adjunct instructor for South Louisiana Community College Maritime Safety Center.

2025 Full time instructor for South Louisiana Community College Maritime Safety Center.

Certified to teach and have taught the following United States Coast Guard courses for Licenses, Certifications and Endorsements

Master 200 ton

Master 100 ton

Able Bodied Seafarer

Advanced Wheelhouse Simulation

Apprentice Mate Steersman

Radar Observer Inland and Unlimited

Survival Craft Proficiency

Lifeboatman

Advanced Firefighting

Coldwater Survival Training

STCW (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping)

Basic Firefighting

Water Survival

Personal Safety and Social Responsibility

Testified before Louisiana House and Senate sub-committees on Natural Resources in 2022 on behalf of the menhaden industry on proposed buffer zones.

Testified before La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries in 2024 on proposed buffer zones and bycatch studies.

Fee schedules and references available upon request