



Wanna be a hydrographer?

Are you technically-inclined? Does the challenge of working outside on the water appeal to you?

What do they do?

Canadian Hydrographic Service is responsible for surveying and charting Canada's coastal and inland waters to provide information for the safe, orderly and efficient conduct of vessels.

Hydrographers spend about half their working time in field surveys and the other half in offices working with the collected data. Surveys are frequently carried out in hazardous conditions at sea in extremely cold temperatures and hydrographers must spend extended periods of time at sea or in isolated areas. For example, hydrographers charting Canadian Arctic waters work in isolation for up to four months at a time.

How do I become a hydrographer?

Most hydrographers come from technological institutes for surveyors, or are university graduates in civil or survey engineering or in one of the physical sciences. Because the work is so specialized, requiring competence in both seamanship and the operations and theory of sophisticated instruments and equipment, the Department provides an accredited Class A Hydrographic Career Development training program in order to train the high quality personnel necessary to carry out its different tasks. The amount of time spent on each element of the program varies based on education, experience, aptitudes and demonstrated performance of the candidate.

Openings for jobs with Fisheries and Oceans Canada are advertised through the Public Service Commission (PSC) website at www.jobs.gc.ca.

For more information on the Canadian Hydrographic Service, please visit www.charts.gc.ca/pub.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

LIZ CUFF, *HYDROGRAPHER,*

"Our 10 weeks of surveying every year takes us into different communities that I probably wouldn't normally see. This year I went to northern Labrador. You get to meet with people in these communities and get an appreciation for their cultural diversity. That's one of the things I love the most about this province - its vast history and culture, not to mention the physical beauty of the land. The field season gives you a chance to get out of the office, and to top it all off I work with a great group of individuals. What more could I ask?"

Hearing Liz talk about her job you can tell she truly loves what she does.

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