

**Captain Deborah D. Dempsey**

1123 14<sup>th</sup> ST  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
503-791-1379

**Education:**

High School: The Williams School, New London, CT graduated Cum Laude 1967  
University of Vermont: graduated 1971 BA in Chemistry  
Maine Maritime Academy: graduated Valedictorian 1976 BS in Nautical Science  
(first female graduate of any maritime or service academy)

**Employment History:**

1976-1977: Exxon Co., USA, Third Mate  
1977-1994: Lykes Bros. S.S. Co., Third Mate, Second Mate, Chief Mate, Master  
1994-2016: Bar Pilot, Columbia River Bar Pilots

**License History:**

1976: Unlimited Third Mate  
1978: Unlimited Second Mate  
1981: Unlimited Chief Mate  
1984: Unlimited Master  
1994: First Class Pilot Columbia River Bar

**Significant Events:**

1989: First female Master on international voyages on the Ro-Ro *MV Lyra*  
1990-1991: Persian Gulf duty with the *MV Lyra*  
1991: Received the US Navy Meritorious Award for Public Service  
1992: Navigator, Newport-Bermuda Sailing Race, US Women's Challenge Team  
1993: Captain of rescue of the *MV Lyra* adrift off Cape Fear, NC  
1993: Subject of "Professional Mariner" article  
1993: Received the Seaman's Church Institute Lifesaving Award – NYC  
1993: Received the United Seaman's Service AOTOS Honored Seamen Award – NYC  
1994: Received Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from Maine Maritime Academy  
1994: Received American Merchant Marine Seamanship Trophy – USMMA  
1994: Subject of "Parade Magazine" article  
1994: Participant in "Women Underway" Symposium – USMMA  
1994-1999: Trustee, Board of Trustees, Maine Maritime Academy  
1995: Awarded Reader's Digest "Heroes for Today" article and award  
1995: Participant in "Women in Shipping/Navigating to the Top" Conference – WISTA  
1997-2002: Director, Board of Directors, WISTA (Women's Intl. Ship n Trade Ass.) USA  
1997: Co-author, "The Captain's a Woman, Tales of a Merchant Mariner"  
1998: One of 40 women featured in Jo Giese's book "A Woman's Path"

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1998-2000: Served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Columbia River Bar Pilots  
1999-2001: Volunteer, The Community Store, local health food coop – Astoria, OR  
1999-2000: Volunteer, Astor Grade School, 4<sup>th</sup> grade tutor and lunch buddy – Astoria, OR  
2000-2010: Director, Board of Directors, Camp Kiwanilong (Board Chair 2002-2005) – Warrenton, OR  
2000-2005: Pilot Commissioner, Oregon Board of Maritime Pilots  
2001: Recipient “A Thousand Thanks” Award (Local Hero to our Children) – Astoria, OR  
2006: Featured in PBS documentary “Shipping Out: The Story of American Seafaring Women”  
2006: Inducted onto Maine Maritime Academy’s Wall of Honor  
2006-present: Founding Director, Treasurer and member Board of Directors, Bellingham Bay  
Community Boating Center, Bellingham, WA  
2007: Panelist “Women on the Water” Conference, Great Lakes Maritime Academy  
2008: Featured in John and Patience Wubben’s book “Women of the Sea”  
2009: Guest Speaker, “Women on the Water” Conference, Maine Maritime Academy  
2010: Participant “Women on the Water” Conference, Texas Maritime Academy  
2011: Panelist “Women on the Water” Conference, Massachusetts Maritime Academy  
2012-2015: Served on federal NOAA advisory panel, HSRP (Hydrographic Services Review Panel)  
2012: Speaker “Women on the Water” Conference, California Maritime Academy  
2013: Participant “Women on the Water” Conference, New York Maritime Academy  
2014: Participant “Women on the Water” Conference, California Maritime Academy  
2014: Training Officer “Training Ship State of Maine” summer cruise  
2015: Speaker “Women on the Water” Conference USMMA  
2016: Panelist “Women on the Water” Conference, California Maritime Academy  
2016: Documentary subject for Portland Jazz Composer’s Ensemble Oregon Stories Project  
2016: Evaluator Puget Sound Pilots applicant exam  
2016: Recipient Council of American Master Mariners “Maritime Person of 2016” award  
2017: Subject “Moth Radio Hour”  
2017: Keynote speaker YWCA, Bellingham, WA annual May fundraiser breakfast  
2017: Keynote speaker annual PaNNTOA (Pacific NW Nordic Tug) Rendezvous Anacortes, WA  
2018: Keynote speaker “Women on the Water” conference Maine Maritime Academy  
2019: Recipient Council of American Master Mariners’s Lalonde Spirit of the Seas Award  
2019: Participant “Women on the Water” Conference Texas Maritime Academy