

**Region:** Puglia
**Related to:** Direziomare Bari
**Harbour Master:** C.V. (CP) Claudio  CILIBERTI
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**Tasks**

The Italian Coast Guard (ITCG) is a branch of the "Marina Militare" (Italian Navy) that has tasks and functions connected mostly to the civil use of the sea and with functional dependence on various ministries that avail themselves on their work: first of all the "Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti" (Ministry of the Infrastructures and Transports) which has "inheritated" in the year 1994, from the Ministry of the Merchant Marine, the major part of the functions connected to the use of the sea and the connected activities with the commercial and pleasure navigation.

**The main activities of the ITCG are the following:**

- **Search and rescue at sea (SAR)** with the entire organization of coordination, control, detection and communications active for 24 hours a day;

- **Safety,** with systematic inspections on the entire national merchant fleet, fishing and pleasure shipping and through the activity of Port State Control, also on the foreign flags that calling at the national ports;

- **Protection of the Marine Environment**, with functional dependence on the "Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio e del mare" (Ministry for the Environment), using for this aim also resources (operational centers, aeronaval crafts, vessel traffic control systems) already used for other tasks such as rescue, safety and security, and maritime police;

- **Control on maritime fishery**, with functional dependence on the "Ministero per le politiche argicole e forestali" (Ministry of Agriculture): at this end the ITCG Headquarters is the responsible authority of the National Fishing Control Center and the Coast Guard Offices carry out the controls prescribed by the national and EU rules on the entire fishing fleet;

- **Peripheral administration of State functions** in the matters of training of the seafarers, of registration of the merchant and fishing shipping, of pleasure shipping, and of the contentious for those maritime crimes that have been de-penalized;

- **Maritime Police** (namely technical-administrative maritime police, including the discipline of maritime navigation and the regulation of the events that are carried out in the maritime areas that fall under the national sovereignty, the control of the maritime traffic, the manoeuvre of the ships and the safety in the ports, inquiries on the maritime casualities, the control on the maritime State property, the testing and periodic inspections of coastal warehouses and other hazardous installations.