

Commander Chris Woodley
Chief, Prevention Department
USCG Sector Seattle, WA

Commander Woodley was commissioned as an Ensign after graduating from the Coast Guard's Officer Candidate School in 1990. With the exception of his first tour of duty at Marine Safety Office Pittsburgh from 1990-1993, he has the good fortune to spend the last 17 years being stationed at various units in Alaska and Washington State.

From 1993-1997 he earned qualifications as senior marine inspector and marine casualty investigator while at Marine Safety Office Anchorage, Alaska and as the supervisor of Marine Safety Detachment in Dutch Harbor/Unalaska. From Unalaska he was assigned as the Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator for the 13th Coast Guard District from 1997-2001.

In 2001, he returned to Marine Safety Office Anchorage as the Chief of Port Operations. Given his background in vessel inspections, casualty investigations, oil spill response and fishing vessel safety, he headed the Coast Guard's formal investigation into the loss of the F/P GALAXY in 2002 and served as the Unified Command's liaison officer for the major oil spill occurring from the grounding of the M/V SELENDANG AYU.

From 2005-2009, Commander Woodley served as the Chief of External Affairs for the 13th Coast Guard District in Seattle, where he managed the 13th District's public affairs program, as well as its external engagements with Congressional, tribal, and international customers in Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and Canada. In cooperation with various sectors of the North Pacific Fishing Industry during this time frame, he developed the Alternate Compliance & Safety Agreement (ACSA) program. ACSA is the only full vessel inspection program for non-classed fish processing vessels in the United States.

He is currently assigned as the Chief of Prevention at Sector Puget Sound, where he oversees all commercial vessel (foreign and domestic) and waterfront facility safety and security inspections, marine casualty investigations, and waterway management issues for the northern Washington Coast, Straits of Juan de Fuca, and Puget Sound.

An avowed "fish head," Commander Woodley has interacted extensively with the Alaska fishing industry for 17 years, working with fishery management agencies, safety training organizations, vessel crews and owners to improve vessel and crew safety.

Commander Woodley grew up in Eagle River, Alaska. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1989 with a Bachelor's Degree in History and received a Master's Degree from the University of Washington's School of Marine Affairs in 2000. He married his high school sweet heart, Lisa Mann. They have two wonderful children, Kara (16) and Kristen (13). He lives on Vashon Island and enjoys spending time with his family, cycling, reading, and trying to find where the Dungeness crab are along East Passage.