

LESLIE J. HUGHES

Ms. Hughes was the executive director for 23 years before acting as the director of government and industry affairs for the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners' Association (NPFVOA) Vessel Safety Program. Twenty-five years ago, she worked with industry and the Coast Guard to develop and implement the program. The NPFVOA Vessel Safety Program, regarded as the model safety training program for U.S. commercial fishermen, is a non-profit association totally dedicated to safety education and training for commercial fishermen and other mariners. Since its inception in 1985, NPFVOA has trained over 37,000 mariners. Its membership consists of approximately 200 vessels and 100 support businesses and individuals, representing a wide range of commercial marine operators.

Ms. Hughes has been actively involved in various aspects of the commercial fishing industry for more than 35 years, including working with naval architects, boat builders, insurers and maritime attorneys. She was the Assistant Editor of the first edition of the Vessel Safety Manual, published in 1986, and has since been Editor of four updates. Now in its 5th edition, the Vessel Safety Manual is considered to be the operational standard for commercial fishing vessel safety in the U. S. In addition, Ms. Hughes is a member of a number of industry groups and was named 2006 Maritime Person of the Year for Puget Sound; she also received the Jerry Jurkovich Award from the National Marine Fisheries Service for promoting safety at sea and helping bridge communication between industry and government. She is currently serving her 12th year on the Coast Guard's Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Advisory Committee (CFIVSAC), and has received two of the Coast Guard's Meritorious Public Service Award (1998 and 2001) for promoting safety for those who make a living at sea.