

**From:** [Jerry Dzugan](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** AK Marine Safety Education Assn. (AMSEA)  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 3:26:45 PM

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Senate FINANCE COMMITTEE - March 30, 2016

RE: Alaska Marine Safety Education Assn (AMSEA) support

· We want to **thank you** for the support of this legislature of our efforts to reduce the rate of drownings and vessel casualties in Alaska through our efforts. We appreciate that this legislature and administration is making health, life and safety issues a priority while it makes very difficult decisions about funding.

· We are a non-profit organization whose mission for the past 30 years has been to work collaboratively to lessen the loss of life on our waters. We are also the only organization in the state that trains commercial fishermen in required and desired Drill Conductor safety training.

· Last year, AMSEA instructors, who are located statewide, trained well over 7,300 fishermen, school children and members of the public. 14 people contacted us last year alone to say that AMSEA training was critical to helping them survive an emergency at sea. This program's effectiveness has been recognized by 15 state, regional and national awards.

· A recent independent study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) found that fishermen who had taken AMSEA training within the last 5 years had a statistically significant higher rate of surviving an emergency at sea than those without this training. This is the 3rd consecutive independent study confirming the effectiveness of this program.

· This is a cost effective program since it trains community based marine and water safety instructors to deliver an Alaska specific program that addresses the risks faced by the Alaska environment, saving money in travel and other expenses.

Thank you again for your efforts in keeping these health, life and safety concerns a priority in what we realize is a very challenging fiscal environment.

Jerry Dzugan

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