

## **Dave Rudie BIO**

**Current as of January 4, 2016**

Dave Rudie founded Catalina Offshore Products in 1977. Once exclusively a sea urchin wholesaler, today the company is one of Southern California's premier seafood purveyors. Nearly 75% of the seafood COP sells is sustainable, and this ongoing commitment to supporting responsible fishing practices has allowed for key partnerships with organizations such as Seafood for the Future and Trace and Trust.

In addition to overseeing his business operation, Dave contributes his expertise to numerous initiatives. He is President of the California Fisheries & Seafood Institute and newly formed California Pelagic Fisheries Association; Vice President of the San Diego Oceans Foundation; board member of The Maritime Alliance; and a longstanding voice on the California Sea Urchin Commission. His involvement in efforts between local fishermen, scientists, and both government and non-government organizations has resulted in funding for various conservation efforts including MPA monitoring and collaborative fisheries research. He has also been involved in some of the longest term (20+ years) independent fishery research for sea urchin. In 2015, Catalina Offshore Products was recognized as Food Processor of the Year by the Food Industry Business Roundtable (FIBR). In the same year Dave also received The Maritime Alliance's Community Leadership Award for his dedication to promoting sustainable, science-based ocean industries, national and international outreach and workforce development.

In his spare time Dave enjoys diving, underwater photography and tending to his garden in Bay Park where he resides with his partner and travel writer, Elaine Masters.