



Association for Rescue at Sea, Inc.



**John C. Cooper, USCG Auxiliary**  
Biography

Cooper graduated with a BA in Political Science-International Law from UCLA, then obtained a Bachelors of Foreign Trade from the then-American Institute for Foreign Trade (now Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management) and a PMD from the Harvard Graduate School of Business.

He spent 39 years in international banking with Citibank, the HongKong & Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) and Merrill Lynch, during which he lived and worked in Paraguay, Argentina, Singapore, Puerto Rico, New York and London before retiring to Islamorada in the Florida Keys in 2000. During his overseas work, he was a member and a director of numerous clubs, financial and manufacturing companies and business associations.

Cooper obtained his 25 ton Master's Ticket on his 18th birthday and worked his way through UCLA running fishing boats out of Long Beach and San Pedro. He has owned and operated boats all his life and has had a lifelong interest in Maritime Safety and Environmental Protection. He spent some 15 years of active service on the National Staff of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, serving as Director of Maritime Safety and Environmental Protection and, most recently, as Director of International Affairs of the Auxiliary.

He now resides in Islamorada, Florida, with his wife, Bernie, where he serves on the board of AFRAS, is President of the Florida Keys Concert Association, Inc., and is a tutor of English to Spanish-speaking Americans.