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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Ocean Champions Announces Diverse Wave of Political Endorsements For 2008 Elections

Introducing Highly Qualified Political Candidates to Protect Endangered Oceans

September 16, 2008, Capitola, CA —With just seven weeks until the national election, Ocean Champions has released its third wave of congressional endorsements. All the candidates share a commitment to protecting our oceans, and to working with Ocean Champions to make ocean health a priority in Congress.

As with past Ocean Champions endorsements, the candidates were chosen because they have strong records of supporting ocean health and many hold key committee assignments that are crucial for passing legislation for ocean protection nationally. In an effort to strengthen the importance of ocean issues in the U.S. Congress, Ocean Champions continues to build a cadre of ocean proponents across the aisle.

"It has become ever more apparent that the health of the ocean affects all Americans and is impacted by all Americans," said David Wilmot, PhD, President and Co-founder of Ocean Champions. "Electing Congressional champions is one of the most powerful things we can do together in the protection of our oceans for generations to come."

Ocean Champions is endorsing in the U.S. House Rep. Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL), Rep. Ehlers (R-MI), Rep. Holt (D-NJ), Rep. Honda (D-CA), Rep. Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Rep. Gordon (D-TN), and long time ocean champion, Rep. Pallone (D-NJ). In addition to these

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established and effective members of Congress, Ocean Champions is endorsing a new leader, Governor Shaheen, challenging Senator Sununu for his seat in New Hampshire.

Last month Ocean Champions announced its endorsement of Mark Begich (D-AK), senate candidate for Alaska, running against incumbent, Senator Ted Stevens and Frank Kratovil (D-MD), house candidate for Maryland, running against Andy Harris. Harris beat ocean champion Wayne Gilchrest in the primary. These are just two of the several tight races Ocean Champions is watching across the country. Ocean Champions will evaluate these races and determine which candidates will receive their endorsement and support within the next month.

Ocean Champions is the only nonprofit political organization that endorses pro-ocean Congressional candidates and lobbies members of Congress on behalf of the oceans. To learn more about Ocean Champions or any of the candidates endorsed by Ocean Champions, visit www.oceanchampions.org.

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