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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Ocean Champions Endorses Cong. Mary Bono Mack (R-CA) *Conservative Credentials Combined with Ocean and Environmental Commitment*

Washington, D.C. – October 25, 2010 – Ocean Champions, which works to build political power for the oceans by helping to elect pro-ocean candidates to the U.S. Congress is proud to announce its endorsement of Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack (R-CA) for California's 45th District.

"Ocean Champions believes ocean health should be a priority for both parties and that it can serve as common ground between competing ideologies," said David Wilmot, Ph.D., Ocean Champions' President and Co-Founder.

"Congresswoman Bono Mack is a great example of a fiscal conservative who fights for land and water conservation and ocean health because she knows they are important for our heritage and culture as well as for our economy."

While fighting to reduce government spending and to balance the budget, Congresswoman Bono Mack has shown that she believes ocean and environmental health are priority investments for America and her district. She has fought to save critical habitat, passing legislation to establish the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, which covers 252,000 acres and protects a number of endangered species, and has cosponsored numerous bills to preserve and restore important natural areas. She cosponsored the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act to improve coastal water quality, and she has been a leader in the fight to restore the Salton Sea, which sustains millions of birds, including some endangered species. She helped pass the Public Lands Omnibus, which provided for coastal and estuarine land conservation and funded ocean acidification research and monitoring.

In addition to supporting measures to protect important habitat, the Congresswoman has moved to preserve threatened species as well. In the 111th Congress alone, she has backed bills to protect sea otters and marine turtles. She established a deep connection to the natural world as a child, and has said she feels a need to protect America's natural resources so that future generations can enjoy and appreciate them as well.

For her courage, leadership and commitment, Ocean Champions believes Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack is the best candidate to represent California's 45th District.

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.