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N E W S R E L E A S E

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## Ocean Champions Endorses Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA) *Congressman Exemplifies Champion Level Leadership*

Washington, D.C. – June 22, 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 Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA).

“Congressman Farr embodies everything we look for in a Congressional champion,” said David Wilmot, Ph.D., Ocean Champions’ President and Co-Founder. “He has a passionate personal connection to the ocean, and also understands how important it is ecologically, economically and culturally to the people in his district and throughout the nation. His commitment is evident in the wide range of ocean issues he leads, from sweeping ocean governance reform to endangered marine animal protection; from research to offshore oil drilling bans, Congressman Farr is always there for the oceans and the people who love them.”

Congressman Farr may be best known for his leadership on the visionary H.R. 21 - Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (a.k.a. Oceans 21), which seeks to implement the highest priority recommendations from the Pew Oceans Commission, and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. These blue ribbon panels stated that major changes in how we manage ocean resources are necessary for long term ocean health. Last year, the Obama administration picked up on Mr. Farr’s leadership and challenged the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force to recommend a framework for implementing critical aspects of Oceans 21, including a national ocean policy to protect, maintain and restore healthy oceans.

In addition to tackling sweeping change through Oceans 21, Congressman Farr seeks opportunities to address individual conservation priorities. In the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, he has introduced or cosponsored critical ocean bills that have become law, including a bill to create important new ocean research programs, and another to establish a coastal mapping program to enhance our ability to use ecosystem approaches for ocean management decisions. His leadership has helped several other important ocean bills pass the House, including his Sea Otter Research and Recovery Act, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act, and the Shark Conservation Act. Always an opponent of offshore oil drilling, Congressman Farr recently cosponsored the West Coast Protection Act, to permanently prohibit oil and natural gas leasing off the coast of California, Oregon, or Washington.

Congressman Farr's willingness and ability to fight for ocean health on issues large and small make him the absolute model of an ocean champion. This passion, along with his understanding of his district and commitment to its people make him the best candidate for CA-17.

*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](http://www.oceanchampions.org).*