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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Monterey Bay Divers Get Feet Wet With Political Group Ocean Champions

Monterey, CA Members of the Monterey Bay area's dive community gathered this weekend in Monterey to dip their toes in a different kind of turbulent sea – politics.

National political group Ocean Champions met with area divers and ocean enthusiasts on Saturday Nov. 3rd at the Monterey Museum of Art at La Mirada, to discuss the organization's bold and unique political approach to saving the oceans.

Ocean Champions, located in Capitola, is the first and only national political organization that endorses pro-ocean Congressional candidates and lobbies members of Congress on behalf of the oceans.

David Wilmot, PhD, Co-Founder and President of Ocean Champions, shared with the group his personal evolution from a scientific researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography to a political advocate for ocean conservation.

"In their personal experience with the ocean, divers have a deeper understanding of the importance of protecting and sustaining the health of our oceans," said Dr. Wilmot. "They are a powerful constituency, whose voices can, and do, contribute to the positive influence on Congressional leaders to take action."

The intimate gathering was hosted by Frank and Debby Degnan, well-known members of the local community, and long-time divers. "We are so excited to have discovered Ocean Champions," said Debby Degnan of the emerging organization. "We wanted to make sure our friends and fellow divers knew about the good work being done for the oceans."

Frank Degnan is a teacher and Dive Safety Officer at CSUMB, and serves on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.

To learn more about Ocean Champions, visit www.oceanchampions.org

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