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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Ocean Champions Endorses Representatives Honda (D-CA), Boyd (D-FL) and Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL) *Three Appropriators Consistently Strong on Ocean Issues*

Washington, D.C. – October 5, 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 Congressmen Mike Honda (D-CA) and Allen Boyd (D-FL), and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL).

"It's important to have ocean champions in key positions to influence ocean legislation, and each of these leaders combine a commitment to ocean health with the seniority and influence to make a difference," said David Wilmot, Ph.D., Ocean Champions' President and Co-Founder. "As senior appropriators, they've all supported important investments in ocean health while consistently voting in favor of ocean conservation policy. We supported all three in 2008, and they've all earned our endorsement once again."

Congressman Honda has focused significant attention on fisheries and renewable energy. He cosponsored a collection of bills designed to address the decline in marine fisheries generally, and in the Pacific Salmon fishery specifically. In addition to his work on fisheries, Congressman Honda has long supported the development of alternative energy and has worked to prevent new West Coast offshore drilling. In response to the BP Gulf oil disaster, he cosponsored the West Coast Ocean Protection Act to permanently ban all drilling off the West Coast, and the Big Oil Bailout Prevention Act.

Congressman Boyd has always worked for cleaner coastal water, co-sponsoring the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia bill as well as bills to restore healthy rivers in Florida's 2nd district. He was an original cosponsor for the Big Oil Bailout Prevention Act and has beaten a drum to hold BP accountable to his constituents. Along with Congressman Honda, Mr. Boyd has supported investment in innovative management programs that rebuild fisheries while supporting fishermen.

In addition to serving on the Appropriations Committee, Congresswoman Wasserman-Schultz has established herself as a leader in the Democratic Party. With others looking to her for guidance, she has been an important supporter of ocean health issues ranging from the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia bill, to preservation of sea otters, marine turtles and bluefin tuna, to reforming ocean governance. On the latter issue, she cosponsored Oceans-21 and also voiced support for President Obama's Executive Order for our first National Ocean Policy.

Ocean Champions believes strongly that all three of these senior leaders are important for the health and prosperity of the ocean and their respective districts.

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.