

Ocean Champions Overview



Our Mission

To build the political power necessary to ensure thriving coasts and oceans.

What We Do

Ocean Champions, a 501(c)(4) organization, with a connected political action committee (Ocean Champions PAC), is the first national organization of its kind focused solely on oceans and ocean wildlife. Our goal is to create a political environment where protecting and restoring the oceans is a national government priority. We do this by helping to elect pro-ocean Congressional candidates and working to defeat the bad ones. We then engage with members of Congress to pass pro-ocean laws and shoot down bills that would harm the ocean.

How We Are Unique

Ocean Champions is the only ocean group focused on Congressional politics. By endorsing and supporting pro-ocean candidates in their election bids, we are building political power for the oceans in Congress. We maintain a steady presence on Capitol Hill through our strategic lobbying activities and leverage our unique relationships to get results. No other nonprofit organization, and no other ocean group, works to elect pro-ocean Congressional leaders and build strong relationships with members of Congress who champion our oceans.

Building A Pro-Ocean Congress

Ocean Champions has participated in the full political process since 2003, and has developed strong relationships with committee chairs, party leadership and many members along the way. We've utilized these relationships to place the oceans into the national policy conversation, and are building a strong resume:

Year	Won	Lost	Winning %	Highlights
2004	11	3	79%	- Helped elect 2 new Members
2006	16	4	80%	- Defeated Ocean Enemy #1, Richard Pombo
2008	28	6	82%	- 6 Committee / Subcommittee Chairs - 6 new Members (3 House, 3 Senate)
2010	23	7	77%	- 11 Committee / Subcommittee Chairs - Beat Pombo again!
2012	43	3	93%	- 8 new Congressmen, 3 new Senators - Ocean champions occupy almost 1/5 of the Senate
2014	54	5	92%	-Defeated Ocean Enemy #1 Steve Southerland!
2016	51	6	89%	-14 new champions including 8 new members to Congress (6 House, 2 Senate)
Total	226	34	87%	- 70 champions serving in the 115th Congress

In the last decade, Ocean Champions has spent nearly \$2 million to help elect more than 120 Members of Congress in both their 501(c)(4) and federal PAC and helped to defeat two ocean enemies. Our electoral engagement, combined with a pragmatic, politically savvy approach to legislative advocacy has earned us a strong reputation on Capitol Hill, and has translated into a growing list of successful policy victories:

Issue	Accomplishments
Water Quality / Habitat	Helped pass the "Trash Free Seas Act" and "Microbead-Free Waters Act" to address marine debris
	Our Champions have led on designating and expanding marine monuments, passed bills to establish estuary conservation programs and address ocean acidification
	Champions have repelled numerous attempts to expand offshore oil drilling
	Helped pass legislation to reduce toxic algal blooms and hypoxia
Fish Conservation	Played major role in passing strong U.S. fisheries law
	Blocked several anti-conservation attacks on successful fisheries management programs
	Secured millions in appropriated dollars for electronic monitoring / electronic reporting on fishing vessels, and, secured several mentions of the important of electronic monitoring / electronic reporting in the President's budget, which will enhance prospects for increased funding going forward
	Our champions have led and passed bills to fight IUU fishing (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing), and shark finning
Ocean Governance / Funding	Played leadership role in obtaining an Executive Order for the first National Ocean Policy
	Defended the Nat'l Ocean Policy by defeating attacks on its funding
	Our champions have led the way in ensuring a robust NOAA budget

Where We Can Be Found

- **Press Contact:** Chris Laughlin, 831-462-2550; chris@oceanchampions.org
- **On the web:** www.oceanchampions.org
- **Youtube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/OceanChampions>
- **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/OceanChampions>
- **Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/OceanChampions>
- **Instagram:** <https://instagram.com/OceanChampions>
- **Pinterest:** <https://www.pinterest.com/oceanchampions/>
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ocean-champions>
- **Change.org:** http://www.change.org/organizations/ocean_champions