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**For Immediate Release**

**ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL  
AWARDS \$435,000 IN OCEAN FUND GRANTS**

MIAMI – July 1, 1997 – Royal Caribbean International has awarded \$435,000 in marine conservation grants to eight organizations from its new Royal Caribbean Ocean Fund. The grants, announced by Chairman and CEO Richard D. Fain, are part of a three-year, \$1 million commitment by the cruise line to assist organizations in work to protect the marine environment.

After reviewing dozens of applications, Royal Caribbean's Ocean Fund Committee approved grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000. Projects to be underwritten include university research, protection of marine sanctuaries in the Florida Keys, development of worldwide ecotourism guidelines, and the education of communities in Florida, Bermuda, the Caribbean and Latin America about environmental citizenship.

"We owe our livelihoods to the ocean," Fain said. "It is imperative that we give something back to the oceans and the coastal communities that support us."

One of the awardees, Clean Islands International, will use its \$50,000 grant to produce 500 "toolkits" for environmental education in Caribbean schools.

“We are bolstered by both Royal Caribbean’s financial support and its commitment to assist us in advancing our goals in the preservation of the Caribbean’s delicate beauty,” said Tricia Hopkins, board president for the Maryland-based organization. “We appreciate being provided the opportunity to define our own project plans.”

The Nature Conservancy (Florida Keys Initiative) also won a \$50,000 grant for its extensive volunteer programs to protect the biodiversity of the coral reefs.

“We continue to believe that ‘citizen stewardship’ is among the most powerful approaches available to meet the conservation challenge,” Director Mark Robertson said. “We welcome the opportunity to have our work shared with the public.”

Other organizations receiving Royal Caribbean Ocean Fund grants are:

- Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute: \$50,000 toward a capital campaign to build an educational institute to explain the wonders of the ocean and the results of its latest research to 600,000 annual visitors
- The Ecotourism Society: \$50,000 to develop Marine Ecotourism Guidelines to educate 1,400 professional members on the responsible use of marine resources
- Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute: \$90,000 over two years to develop *Sea Profiles*, an interactive CD-ROM for students in grades 6-12, exploring the ocean from the east coast of Florida to the Bahamas
- Oceanwatch: \$25,000 to re-edit *The Fragile Ring of Life* into a 30-minute classroom video (English and Spanish) for Grades 7-12, and produce 1,000 units and teacher’s guide for schools in Florida and the Caribbean

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- Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute: \$20,000 to develop educational materials for “Treasure Chest” that will accompany a bilingual public exhibit, “Our Reefs - Caribbean Connections,” now touring Caribbean countries
- University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science: \$100,000 over two years to support five one-year research grants in the Junior Faculty Enrichment program and to underwrite the Blue Planet lecture series

Royal Caribbean established the Ocean Fund last October. The application deadline for the next round of grants is October 1.

Royal Caribbean is one of the largest cruise brands in the world. It currently operates 11 ships and carries more than a million passengers annually. The company has four ships on order, including *Enchantment of the Seas*, which will launch next week; *Vision of the Seas* and two 130,000-ton Eagle-class vessels scheduled for service in 1999 and 2000. The cruise line offers 66 itineraries and 156 different destinations in Alaska, the Bahamas, Bermuda, the Caribbean, Europe, the Far East, Hawaii, Mexico, Panama Canal, Russia and Scandinavia.