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**For Immediate Release**

**OCEAN FUND AWARDS \$580,500 IN NEW GRANTS FROM  
ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL AND CELEBRITY CRUISES**

**MIAMI** – April 21, 1999 – Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. has awarded \$580,500 in 11 new grants to marine conservation organizations and earmarked another \$2 million for its Ocean Fund, chairman and CEO Richard D. Fain announced today.

The global cruise company also unveiled a three-year, \$750,000 partnership with The Nature Conservancy. The \$250,000 annual contribution, separate from the Ocean Fund, will support conservation initiatives in Alaska, the Caribbean and the Florida Keys.

In 2½ years since its launch, the Ocean Fund now has awarded \$2,112,600 on behalf of Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises to 28 organizations working to protect the marine environment. Among the newest grant recipients are the International SeaKeepers Society, St. Croix Environmental Association, MAST Academy in Miami and the Southern California Marine Institute. Six of the 11 organizations, including the University of Florida Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, also received grants in 1998.

The 1999 grants range from \$15,500 to \$100,000 and will underwrite projects such as eco-camps and mangrove restoration in the U.S. Virgin Islands; satellite telemetry tracking of sea turtles in the Bahamas; and sophisticated ocean-testing through modules installed on yachts.

“We are greatly encouraged by the success of programs undertaken not only by major universities and conservation groups but also by grassroots organizations,” Fain said. “We are grateful to be given an opportunity to help these experts make a difference in the protection of marine habitats and ocean life.”

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The Ocean Fund continued its ongoing support of Alaska SeaLife Center, National Audubon Society, and Earthwatch Institute, each receiving a second \$50,000 grant.

New grants include a two-year, \$100,000 gift to the International SeaKeepers Society, which is working with the University of Miami to develop an ocean-testing module that can be installed on yachts throughout the world. This will permit scientists to gather data and evaluate the health of oceans previously beyond the reach of traditional research vessels.

MAST Academy, a marine-science magnet high school, received a two-year, \$50,000 grant to convert a school bus into a computer-equipped mobile laboratory. The bus, called LandSHARC, visits schools and promotes interest in marine science.

The complete list of Ocean Fund grant recipients:

- Alaska SeaLife Center: \$50,000 for an interactive exhibit overlooking Resurrection Bay in Seward, using remote cameras and downloading real-time information on field research programs
- BREEF - Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation: \$35,000 to continue surveys of endangered Nassau grouper during spawning periods
- Clean Islands International: \$50,000 to conduct summer eco-camps for 250 students at Virgin Islands Environmental Resource Station on St. John
- Earthwatch Institute: \$50,000 to support expeditions in field-research studies ranging from humpback whales in Australia to coral reefs in Hawaii
- International SeaKeepers Society: \$100,000 over two years to develop an ocean-testing module at the University of Miami that will gather data after being installed on 30 yachts and, eventually, on cruise ships

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- MAST Academy: \$50,000 over two years to convert a school bus into a mobile marine science lab, Land SHARC
- National Audubon Society: \$50,000 to support the Living Oceans program, promoting fisheries management and protection of endangered populations
- St. Croix Environmental Association: \$30,000 to plant 4,500 red mangrove seedlings in Salt River Bay, restoring an area ravaged by hurricanes
- Southern California Marine Institute: \$50,000 over two years to train students, teachers and community leaders to perform scientific evaluation of coastal marine environmental quality
- University of Florida / Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research: \$100,000 over two years to use satellite telemetry for tracking of sea turtles and studying their migrating and foraging behavior in the Bahamas
- WIDECAST: \$15,500 to the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network to create a narrated, bilingual slide presentation and brochure about the plight of sea turtles

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. is a global cruise company operating two cruise brands, Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises. The brands' combined fleet consists of 16 vessels in service with a capacity of 29,800 berths. Nine ships are on order, for an additional capacity of 21,700 berths by 2002. The ships currently visit Alaska, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, the Far East, Hawaii, Mexico, New England, the Panama Canal and Scandinavia. For additional information, please visit the company's Internet web sites at [www.royalcaribbean.com](http://www.royalcaribbean.com), [www.rclinvestor.com](http://www.rclinvestor.com) and [www.celebrity-cruises.com](http://www.celebrity-cruises.com).

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