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For Immediate Release

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The Nature Conservancy in Alaska

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.'s Ocean Fund renews pledge of support for The Nature Conservancy

JUNEAU — The Nature Conservancy in Alaska has received a pledge of support for its estuarine conservation program in Southeast Alaska. With its recent grant, the Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Ocean Fund continues its commitment to the project, first established in 2004 with a gift from the Juneau-based Skaggs Foundation.

Located where rivers flow into saltwater, the thousands of estuaries in Southeast Alaska serve as nurseries of the sea, providing important habitat for juvenile salmon, migratory birds and other wildlife. Many of the young forage fish that get their start in estuaries are essential strands in a marine food web that supports whales and other marine mammals as well as commercially valuable fisheries. The Conservancy's goal is to ensure the long-term health and continued biodiversity of these habitats.

"The conservation of marine species and their habitat is vital for the health of our oceans. We are pleased to support the continuation of the estuarine conservation program" said Jamie Sweeting, vice president of environmental stewardship at Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. "The mapping we are supporting with this grant will prove valuable for safeguarding sensitive habitats in Southeast Alaska."

One component of the estuaries conservation program, the ShoreZone inventory, employs a suite of high-tech tools to create maps that document the estuaries and nearshore marine habitats in Southeast Alaska. This ongoing inventory is a vital step for planning ocean-spill response efforts and ensuring the most sensitive and important habitats are protected.

"Estuaries really are the life blood of Alaska's rich coastal ecosystems. We are grateful for the support provided by the Ocean Fund and the hard work and support of our many partners involved in conserving estuaries," says Randall Hagenstein, director of The Nature Conservancy in Alaska.

A wide range of partners supports the Conservancy's estuarine conservation program, including the Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Alaska Petroleum Resource Organization, Skaggs Foundation, The Leighty Foundation, Edwards Mother Earth Foundation, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Learn more about The Nature Conservancy in Alaska at nature.org/alaska.

About Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.'s Ocean Fund

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. established the Ocean Fund in 1996 to support marine conservation organizations in preserving the world's oceans. The mission of the Ocean Fund is to support efforts to restore and maintain a healthy marine environment, minimize the impact of human activity on this environment, and promote awareness of ocean and coastal issues and respect for marine life. In the twelve years since its launch, the Ocean Fund has donated over \$10 million on behalf of Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara Cruises, to several dozen organizations around the world that are working to protect the marine environment.

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. is a global cruise vacation company that operates Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises, Pullmantur, Azamara Cruises and CDF Croisières de France. The company has a combined total of 38 ships in service and six under construction. It also offers unique land-tour vacations in Alaska, Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe, Latin America and New Zealand.

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The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. To date, the Conservancy and its more than one million members have been responsible for the protection of more than 18 million acres in the United States and have helped preserve more than 117 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at www.nature.org.