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For Immediate Release

March 30, 2007

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### **O'Neill Sea Odyssey To Hit Milestone**

(Santa Cruz) – *O'Neill Sea Odyssey's* 40,000th student will be attending Monday, April 2, 2007 afternoon class from Gardner Elementary in San Jose. The teacher's name is Sheila Brewer and she and her class will be here at *O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO)*'s education Center 12:00PM on Monday. "We're going stronger than ever, and 40,000 young ocean stewards is just the beginning", said *OSO* Executive Director Dan Haifley. "I am very proud of our staff, our Board of Directors, and our volunteers and supporters for making the achievement of this milestone possible."

*O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO)* engages 4th - 6th grade youth with a hands-on education program in navigation, conservation, and marine science on a 65-foot catamaran sailing Monterey Bay, and in a shore-side education center. The program is free, and each group completes a community service project to participate. *OSO's mission is to provide a hands-on educational experience to encourage the protection and preservation of our living sea and communities.* In 2006-2007 *OSO* is serving 162 school classes and community centers. In 2007-2008, *OSO* will serve 180 or more classes from the Monterey Bay and San Francisco Bay areas.

In December 2004 the program received the California Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award in Children's Environmental Education and in May 2005 US Senator Barbara Boxer awarded *OSO* her statewide Environmental Champion award.