

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 7, 2017

*Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute (UCI) Director **Tony MacDonald** issued the following statement on the release of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative's (JOCI) Ocean Action Agenda. The report was developed with input from the UCI and JOCI Leadership Council members Monmouth University President Emeritus Vice Admiral (ret.) Paul Gaffney, UCI Ocean Policy Fellow, and former UCI Advisory Committee Member Mrs. Lillian Borrone.*

“Administrations may change but the ocean will continue to play a critical role in regulating weather, supporting productive fisheries and other natural resources. As recognized in the JOCI *Ocean Action Agenda*, investment in our coast and oceans will also sustain a growing economy ranging from ports and trade to offshore wind energy to travel and tourism. It is encouraging to see the consensus report and call-to-action from a bipartisan group of nationally respected leaders. JOCI Co-Chair Gov. Christine Todd Whitman was joined by JOCI member Dr. Donald Boesch at Monmouth University in December for the [2016 Future of the Ocean Symposium](#), where they made similar recommendations and were honored as National and Regional Ocean Champions.

The *Ocean Action Agenda* sets out concrete actions that will strengthen regional collaboration among states and federal agencies in the Mid-Atlantic, including continued support for the [Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal](#) that has been a major focus of the UCI's work over the past four years. The report expresses strong support for basing ocean management and policy decisions on the best available science. The UCI shares that commitment and looks forward to working with the Trump Administration and Congress, and our local and regional partner to support implementation of the *Ocean Action Agenda*.

In addition to Gov. Whitman and Dr. Boesch, the JOCI Leadership Council includes three other members who have been recognized by the UCI with our annual Ocean Champions award: The Hon. Leon Panetta, Dr. Robert Gagosian and Mrs. Lillian Borrone.”

###

Contact: Karl Vilacoba
Urban Coast Institute Communications Director
732-571-3688 | kvilacob@monmouth.edu