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Gartenstrasse, 2  
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21 November 2014

To whom it may concern:

**Re: Letter of Support for Oceana's proposal**

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Oceana, Inc.'s proposal for "Preserving Chile's Ocean Treasures: Securing marine protected areas for the Juan Fernández and Desventuradas Islands". The remote Juan Fernández and Desventuradas Islands have near-pristine marine ecosystems that are worth protecting. Both contribute importantly to the local economy through fishing and tourism and because of their isolation, have an abundance of biodiversity. Yet growing commercial fishing and bottom trawling threaten to destroy them.

Oceana is working to protect these habitats by designating marine protected areas that cover at least 20 percent of Chile's Exclusive Economic Zone by 2016. Oceana is uniquely qualified to execute this project – in no small part thanks to their well-established relationship with the government and local community in Juan Fernández and their campaign record across Chile.

In 2013, through a highly competitive process, Oceana secured a grant for \$35,702 from SOS – Save Our Species to protect Chile's shortfin mako shark, a threatened species. This grant is also supporting Oceana's campaign to establish the marine reserves in Juan Fernández and the Desventuradas Islands, as the waters around these island chains are important habitats for the mako shark.

SOS – Save Our Species is proud to support the important work that Oceana and partners do to protect Chile's pristine marine habitats and threatened species.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Badalotti".

Alessandro Badalotti

Coordinator, SOS - Save Our Species

IUCN, International Union for the Conservation of Nature

[www.SaveOurSpecies.org](http://www.SaveOurSpecies.org)