

By Senator Carlton

24-1600-01

1 Senate Resolution No. ____
2 A resolution recognizing April 2-8, 2001, as
3 "Oceans Week" and April 4, 2001, as "Oceans
4 Day."
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6 WHEREAS, the Florida Senate recognizes that coastal and
7 ocean resources are vital to Florida's quality of life and
8 economic vitality, and
9 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Florida to
10 conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty,
11 in accordance with Article II, Section 7 of the Florida
12 Constitution, and
13 WHEREAS, Florida is the only state in the contiguous
14 United States that is bordered on three sides by the sea, with
15 over 8,000 miles of continuous tidal shoreline, and
16 WHEREAS, over 75 percent of Florida's citizens live
17 within its coastal counties, and
18 WHEREAS, there is a need to coordinate the protection,
19 enhancement, and management of our state's ocean resources so
20 that future generations will enjoy healthy ocean and coastal
21 resources, and
22 WHEREAS, oceans provide the basis for a significant
23 part of the state's economic, ecological, and social
24 well-being, and
25 WHEREAS, tourism is Florida's largest industry,
26 depending in large part on its oceans and beaches, generating
27 more than \$40.8 billion in taxable spending, and
28 WHEREAS, recreational boating depends on Florida's
29 coasts and oceans, contributing over \$3.5 billion per year to
30 the state's economy, along with commercial fishing valued at
31 approximately \$900 million annually to Florida's economy, and

1 WHEREAS, Florida's fourteen deepwater ports handle over
2 \$40.9 billion worth of imports and exports, expected to reach
3 \$130 billion in trade by 2005, and serve over 80 percent of
4 homeport cruise passenger movements in North America, and

5 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has called for the
6 establishment of a coordinated and comprehensive national
7 ocean policy by passing the Oceans Act of 2000, with
8 appointment of a national commission by April 20, 2001, and a
9 final report due 18 months after the commission is
10 established, or by late 2002, and

11 WHEREAS, Oceanology International 2001, a world-class
12 exhibition and joint ocean forum, is holding its first
13 biennial Americas Conference in Miami, Florida, on April 3-5,
14 2001, and

15 WHEREAS, Mote Marine Laboratory and the Florida
16 Institute of Oceanography are organizing ocean-related
17 exhibitions and a reception for legislators and governmental
18 officials at the State Capitol on April 4, 2001, and

19 WHEREAS, the Florida Ocean Alliance has been formed as
20 a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public-private partnership of
21 ocean-related interests to promote awareness and understanding
22 of the ocean's importance to the ecology and economy of
23 Florida and its neighbors, NOW, THEREFORE,

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25 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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27 That the Florida Senate recognizes the week of April
28 2-8, 2001, as Oceans Week, and April 4, 2001, as Oceans Day in
29 recognition of the importance of Florida's ocean resources,
30 and to promote public awareness of this importance.

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