

By Senator Carlton

24-399-01

1 Senate Resolution No. ____

2 A resolution recognizing April 2-8, 2001, as

3 "Oceans Week" and April 4, 2001, as "Oceans

4 Day."

5

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 annual
13 Americas Conference in Miami, Florida, on April 3-5, 2001, and

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

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

23
24 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

25
26 That the Florida Senate recognizes the week of April
27 2-8, 2001, as Oceans Week, and April 4, 2001, as Oceans Day in
28 recognition of the importance of Florida's ocean resources,
29 and to promote public awareness of this importance.

30
31