

By Representative Clarke

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House Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 2-8, 2001, as "Oceans Week" and April 4, 2001, as "Oceans Day."

WHEREAS, the Florida House of Representatives recognizes that coastal and ocean resources are vital to Florida's quality of life and economic vitality, and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Florida to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty, in accordance with Article II, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution, and

WHEREAS, Florida is the only state in the contiguous United States that is bordered on three sides by the sea, with over 8,000 miles of continuous tidal shoreline, and

WHEREAS, over 75 percent of Florida's citizens live within its coastal counties, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to coordinate the protection, enhancement, and management of our state's ocean resources so that future generations will enjoy healthy ocean and coastal resources, and

WHEREAS, oceans provide the basis for a significant part of the state's economic, ecological, and social well-being, and

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

1 WHEREAS, Oceanology International 2001, a world-class
2 exhibition and joint ocean forum, is holding its first
3 biennial Americas Conference in Miami, Florida, on April 3-5,
4 2001, and

5 WHEREAS, Mote Marine Laboratory and the Florida
6 Institute of Oceanography are organizing ocean-related
7 exhibitions and a reception for legislators and governmental
8 officials at the State Capitol on April 4, 2001, and

9 WHEREAS, the Florida Ocean Alliance has been formed as
10 a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public-private partnership of
11 ocean-related interests to promote awareness and understanding
12 of the ocean's importance to the ecology and economy of
13 Florida and its neighbors, NOW, THEREFORE,

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15 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
16 Florida:

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18 That the Florida House of Representatives recognizes
19 the week of April 2-8, 2001, as Oceans Week, and April 4,
20 2001, as Oceans Day in recognition of the importance of
21 Florida's ocean resources, and to promote public awareness of
22 this importance.