

By Senator Carlton

23-1867-03

1 Senate Resolution No. ____
2 A resolution recognizing March 31 - April 4,
3 2003, as "Florida Ocean Education Week" and
4 April 3, 2003 as "Ocean Education Day."
5
6 WHEREAS, the Florida Senate recognizes that coastal and
7 ocean resources are vital to quality of life and economic
8 vitality of the state, and
9 WHEREAS, Mote Marine Laboratory, the Florida Ocean
10 Alliance, and the Florida Institute of Oceanography believe in
11 the importance of educating Florida's schoolchildren in marine
12 science and the need to protect and conserve our valuable
13 marine resources, and
14 WHEREAS, the SeaTrek and JASON distance learning
15 programs bring live, interactive marine science curriculum to
16 students throughout Florida through the use of Internet2 and
17 satellite technology, and
18 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Florida to
19 conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty,
20 pursuant to Section 7, Article II, of the Florida
21 Constitution, and
22 WHEREAS, Florida is the only state in the contiguous
23 United States that is bordered on three sides by the sea, with
24 over 8,000 miles of continuous tidal shoreline, and
25 WHEREAS, over 75 percent of Florida's residents live
26 within its coastal counties, and
27 WHEREAS, there is a need to coordinate the protection,
28 enhancement, and management of our state's ocean resources so
29 that future generations will enjoy healthy ocean and coastal
30 resources, and
31

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

4 WHEREAS, tourism is Florida's largest industry,
5 depending in large part on its oceans and beaches, generating
6 more than \$40 billion in taxable spending each year, and

7 WHEREAS, recreational boating depends on Florida's
8 coasts and oceans, contributing over \$3.5 billion per year to
9 the state's economy, along with commercial fishing valued at
10 approximately \$900 million annually, and

11 WHEREAS, Florida's 14 deepwater ports handle over \$40
12 billion worth of imports and exports and are expected to reach
13 \$130 billion in trade by 2005; and serve over 80 percent of
14 homeport cruise passenger movements in North America, and

15 WHEREAS, Mote Marine Laboratory, the Florida Ocean
16 Alliance, and the Florida Institute of Oceanography are
17 organizing ocean-related exhibitions and a reception for
18 legislators and governmental officials at the State Capitol
19 during "Ocean Education Week," and

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

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

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28 That the Florida Senate does recognize the week of
29 March 31 to April 4, 2003, as "Ocean Education Week," and
30 April 3, 2003, as "Ocean Education Day" to promote public
31 awareness of the importance of Florida's ocean resources.