



HR 9103

2003

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution designating March 31-April 4, 2003, as "Ocean
3 Education Week" and April 3, 2003, as "Ocean Education
4 Day" in Florida.

5
6 WHEREAS, Florida is the only state in the contiguous United
7 States bordered on three sides by the sea and, with over 8,000
8 miles of continuous tidal shoreline and more than 75 percent of
9 its citizens living in counties lying along its shores, its
10 coastal and ocean resources are vital to the state's quality of
11 life, providing the basis for a significant part of its
12 economic, ecological, and social well-being, and

13 WHEREAS, tourism, Florida's largest industry, generating
14 more than \$40 billion in taxable spending each year, depends in
15 large part on the oceans and beaches, as does recreational
16 boating, which contributes over \$3.5 billion per year to the
17 state's economy, and commercial fishing, which is valued at
18 approximately \$900 million annually; and the state's 14
19 deepwater ports handle over \$40 billion worth of imports and
20 exports, are expected to reach \$130 billion in trade by 2005,
21 and serve over 80 percent of homeport cruise passenger movements
22 in North America, and

23 WHEREAS, acutely aware of the need to coordinate the
24 protection, enhancement, and management of the state's ocean
25 resources, Mote Marine Laboratory, the Florida Institute of
26 Oceanography, and the Florida Ocean Alliance, a nonprofit,
27 nonpartisan, public-private partnership of ocean-related
28 interests, place great emphasis on educating Florida's school
29 children in marine science, and the Sea Trek and JASON distance
30 learning programs bring live interactive marine science



HR 9103

2003

31 curriculum to students throughout Florida through the use of
32 Internet2 and satellite technology, and

33 WHEREAS, in their efforts to promote awareness and
34 understanding of the ocean's importance to the ecology and
35 economy of Florida and its neighbors, Mote Marine Laboratory,
36 the Florida Institute of Oceanography, and the Florida Ocean
37 Alliance have organized ocean-related exhibitions and a
38 reception for Legislators and governmental officials at the
39 Capitol during "Ocean Education Week," NOW, THEREFORE,

40

41 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
42 Florida:

43

44 That, in recognition of the importance of Florida's ocean
45 resources, and in an effort to promote public awareness of the
46 need to protect these resources, the House of Representatives
47 designates March 31-April 4, 2003, as "Ocean Education Week" and
48 April 3, 2003, as "Ocean Education Day" in Florida.