

By Senator Carlton

23-04315-08

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing March 12, 2008, as "Florida Oceans Day" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, Florida has the second-longest coastline among the fifty states, having a total of 1,350 miles of coastline, and

WHEREAS, Florida's shoreline economy Gross State Product (GSP) is estimated to be approximately \$402 billion annually, two and a half times the estimated \$160 billion of its inland economy and representing 77 percent of the state's total economy, and

WHEREAS, by the year 2015, Florida's projected ocean tourism and recreation is expected to grow by 73 percent, creating more than 268,000 new jobs, and

WHEREAS, from 1990 to 2003, Florida's coastal counties increased employment by 31 percent, increased wages by 48 percent, and increased the GSP by 63 percent, far faster than the State of California, the Gulf States, or the nation, and

WHEREAS, the oceans and coastal resources of the state are held in trust for the people of the state and should be managed for the benefit of current and future generations, and

WHEREAS, Florida relies on its ocean and coastal systems for the welfare of its residents, and it is critical to work with many groups, including the Florida Oceans and Coastal Council, the Florida Ocean Alliance, and the Florida Coastal and Ocean Coalition, to improve the stewardship of the state's invaluable coastal resources, and

WHEREAS, Florida's coastal counties contribute more than 70 percent of the state's employment, population, and housing while covering only 56 percent of the state's land areas, and

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30 WHEREAS, Florida ranks as the number one place to travel in
31 the nation for Americans that swim, fish, dive, and otherwise
32 enjoy the state's beaches, coastal wetlands, and shores, and

33 WHEREAS, Florida's economy relies heavily on its oceans and
34 shorelines and therefore actively uses these resources in a
35 sustainable manner to ensure a continuing strong economy in the
36 future, and

37 WHEREAS, on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, in the Capitol
38 Courtyard, the Florida Ocean Alliance, the Florida Institute of
39 Oceanography, and the Mote Marine Laboratory will present
40 educational exhibits from institutions around the State of
41 Florida with the theme "Ocean Technology: Protecting Florida's
42 Oceans/Sustaining Florida's Economy," NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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46 That March 12, 2008, is recognized as "Florida Oceans Day"
47 in the State of Florida and all Floridians are encouraged to act
48 as good stewards of the state's priceless ocean and coastal
49 resources.