

HR 9063

2008

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating March 12, 2008, as "Florida  
3 Oceans Day."

4  
5 WHEREAS, with 1,350 miles of coastline, Florida has the  
6 second longest coastline among the 50 states in the nation, and

7 WHEREAS, the gross state product of Florida's shoreline  
8 economy is estimated to be approximately \$402 billion annually,  
9 more than two and a half times the estimated \$160 billion gross  
10 state product of its inland economy, and represents 77 percent  
11 of the state's total economy, and

12 WHEREAS, by the year 2015, ocean tourism and recreation in  
13 Florida is projected to grow by 73 percent, creating more than  
14 268,000 new jobs, and

15 WHEREAS, from 1990 to 2003, Florida's coastal counties  
16 increased employment by 31 percent, increased wages by 48  
17 percent, and increased the gross state product by 63 percent, at  
18 rates exceeding those for the State of California, the Gulf  
19 States, and the nation, and

20 WHEREAS, Florida's oceans and coastal resources are held in  
21 trust for the people of the state and should be managed for the  
22 benefit of current and future generations, and

23 WHEREAS, because Florida's welfare and the welfare of its  
24 citizens is so greatly dependent upon the health and proper  
25 management of its ocean and coastal systems, it has benefited  
26 the state to work with such entities as the Florida Oceans and  
27 Coastal Council, the Florida Ocean Alliance, and the Florida

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28 Coastal and Ocean Coalition to improve the stewardship of this  
29 invaluable resource, and

30 WHEREAS, Florida's coastal counties account for more than  
31 70 percent of the state's employment, population, and housing,  
32 though they comprise only 56 percent of the land area of the  
33 state, and

34 WHEREAS, Florida ranks as the number one travel destination  
35 in the United States for Americans who swim, fish, dive, and use  
36 the state's beaches, coastal wetlands, and shores, and

37 WHEREAS, Florida's economy relies heavily on its oceans and  
38 shorelines and Floridians must actively use them in a  
39 sustainable manner to ensure a continuing strong economy for the  
40 future, and

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

47  
48 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
49 Florida:

50  
51 That the House of Representatives, in recognition of the  
52 influence that Florida's abundant and healthy oceans have on the  
53 lives of Floridians, urges all Floridians to act as good  
54 stewards of this priceless resource and in support of such  
55 efforts designates March 12, 2008, as "Florida Oceans Day."

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56           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be  
57 presented to the Florida Ocean Alliance, the Florida Institute  
58 of Oceanography, and the Mote Marine Laboratory as a tangible  
59 token of the sentiments expressed herein.