

26 transportation; floating and amphibious housing; tourism; and
27 outdoor recreational activities, including, but not limited to,
28 boating and industry sectors dependent on such activities.

29 (b) "Office" means the Office of the Blue Economy.

30 (2) The Office of the Blue Economy is created within the
31 State University System to promote economic development by
32 connecting the state's research institutions with financial
33 resources to facilitate the transfer of innovative technology
34 into marketable goods and services. The office shall be housed
35 within a state university and administered by the Board of
36 Governors of the State University System.

37 (3) The Office of the Blue Economy shall:

38 (a) Support the state's economy by connecting the state's
39 ocean and coastal resources to economic development strategies
40 that enhance or contribute to the blue economy with a focus on
41 research and development, technological innovation, emerging
42 industries, strategic business recruitment, public and private
43 funding opportunities, and workforce training and education.

44 (b) Survey state universities and Florida College System
45 institutions on the development of academic research relating to
46 the blue economy across all disciplines. The office shall
47 encourage collaboration between state universities and Florida
48 College System institutions that have overlapping areas of
49 academic research. The office shall publish on the office's
50 website information on such collaboration and the current

51 research inventory.

52 (c) Collaborate with relevant industries to identify
53 economic challenges that may be solved through innovation in the
54 blue economy by commercializing or otherwise providing public
55 access to academic research and resources.

56 (d) Develop and facilitate a pipeline of academic
57 research, commercialization, accelerator programs, and startup
58 funding.

59 (e) Publish on the office's website reports on the number,
60 growth, and average wages of jobs included in the blue economy.
61 Such reports must identify and address any relevant labor
62 shortages projected by the Labor Market Estimating Conference
63 pursuant to s. 216.136(7).

64 (f) Educate other state and local entities on the
65 interests of the blue economy and how such entities may
66 positively address environmental issues while simultaneously
67 considering the economic impact of their policies.

68 (g) Communicate the state's role as an integral component
69 of the blue economy by promoting the state on national and
70 international platforms and other appropriate forums as the
71 premier destination for convening on pertinent subject matters.

72 (h) Maintain a website on which the office shall publish
73 information as required under this subsection.

74 (4) Beginning January 1, 2025, by December 30 of each
75 year, the Office of the Blue Economy shall provide to the

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76 | Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
77 | House of Representatives a detailed report demonstrating the
78 | economic benefits of the office and the development of emerging
79 | blue economy industries.

80 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.