



March 25, 2009
For Immediate Release
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2009 FLORIDA OCEANS DAY

TALLAHASSEE – Florida legislators will join scientists, researchers and maritime interests to celebrate the 2009 Florida Oceans Day on March 25 in Tallahassee and promote awareness and stewardship of the state's ocean resources. Healthy coasts and oceans are critical to the state's economy and provide sustainable resources for all Floridians. This year's theme, "Florida's Ocean Assets in a Changing Climate and Economy," focuses on the need to preserve ocean assets while sustaining the State's economy. The day's activities will include a Roundtable on "Guidelines for Enhancing Florida's Ocean and Marine Resources" in the Historic Capitol Building, Old House Chambers, for the public, legislators and agency staff.

Events are sponsored by the Florida Ocean Alliance, Mote Marine Laboratory, and the Florida Institute of Oceanography. On March 25, the Florida Ocean Alliance and the Florida Oceans and Coastal Council are sponsoring the Roundtable in the Old Capitol.

Oceans Day Schedule of Events

Wednesday, March 25

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Oceans Day Roundtable, Old Capitol, Old House Chambers, 2d floor
Speaker: Robbin Peach, Founder and Senior Advisor, the Massachusetts Ocean Partnership

"This year's Oceans Day will highlight Florida's oceans assets in an era of climate change and the need to sustain our ocean and coastal economy, valued at \$562 billion. We are focusing on how ocean management can help preserve Florida's oceans and coasts and heighten awareness by the public and legislators of the challenges we face," said David L. McDonald, chair of the Florida Ocean Alliance and Executive Director of Port Manatee. Vice Chair Kumar Mahadevan, President and CEO of Mote Marine Laboratory, added:

(more)

Page 2
Oceans Day

“As a coastal state whose economic health depends on its oceans and coasts, it is imperative that the State move to protect these resources and sustain them in the future. There is a need to balance the growing demands for conflicting ocean uses with the public’s use and stewardship of its ocean resources.”

The Florida Ocean Alliance (www.floridaoceanalliance.org) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public-private partnership of government, academic, and private sector organizations that promotes awareness and understanding of the ocean’s importance to the ecology and economy of Florida.

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