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For Immediate Release
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2010 FLORIDA OCEANS DAY

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. – Florida legislators will join scientists, researchers and maritime interests March 10th in Tallahassee to celebrate the 2010 Florida Oceans Day to 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 Ocean's Day theme, "Florida's Ocean Economy: Planning for Future Uses of Ocean Spaces," focuses on the need to plan for uses of the State's oceans while sustaining the State's economy.

The day's activities will include a workshop and panel discussion on uses of Florida's oceans. It will be held in the Historic Capitol Building, Old Senate 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.

"This year's Oceans Day highlights planning for uses of Florida's oceans and the need to sustain our ocean and coastal economies, 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.

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Vice Chair Kumar Mahadevan, president and CEO of Mote Marine Laboratory, said, added:

“As a coastal state with the longest coastline and largest continental shelf in the lower 48 states whose economic health depends on its oceans and coasts, it is imperative that the state move to plan for multiple uses and long term health of our oceans. 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 promoting awareness and understanding of the ocean’s importance to the ecology and economy of Florida.

Oceans Day Schedule of Events

Wednesday, March 10

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Oceans Day Workshop and Panel, Old Historic Capitol, Old Senate Chambers, 2d floor

Plenary Speaker: Charles Ehler, UNESCO, and panel discussion by ocean users.

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