

For Immediate Release

Florida Ocean Alliance Announces Newly Elected Officers

Fort Lauderdale, FL, December 7, 2023 – The Florida Ocean Alliance has announced its newly elected officers. The Alliance is Florida's leading non-partisan, science-driven, private-public sector partnership comprising leaders in ocean-related industries: tourism, ports, shipping, cruise, recreational and commercial fishing, and recreational boating, as well as nonprofit and other marine research institutions, academia, and public interest groups.

The Alliance's Board of Directors elected the following members to serve two-year terms, effective November 15, 2023.

Glenn Wiltshire is President. Mr. Wiltshire, who is Deputy Port Director of Broward County Port Everglades Department, had served as interim President of the Alliance since August 2023. He is a 30-year U.S. Coast Guard veteran. As Deputy Port Director at Port Everglades, Mr. Wiltshire manages a diverse seaport that includes one of the nation's leading container ports and one of the world's busiest cruise ports. As President of Florida Ocean Alliance, he will endeavor to expand the Alliance's membership base while continuing the outreach efforts to educate stakeholders on the importance of Florida's ocean economy. Mr. Wiltshire said, "I look forward to collaborating with the Board members and aligning their diverse skills with the vast opportunities the Alliance provides to further develop our state's ocean economy."

Spencer Crowley is Vice President. Mr. Crowley is the Land Use and Development Co-Chair at Akerman LLP.

Jackie Larson is Secretary. Ms. Larson is the Executive Director of Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association and will serve a second term as Secretary.

Jeff Eble is Treasurer. Mr. Eble is a Research Scientist and Florida Program Director at Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute.

About the Florida Ocean Alliance

The <u>Florida Ocean Alliance</u> is Florida's leading non-partisan, science-driven, private-public sector partnership. Its diverse membership is dedicated to positioning Florida as a global leader in responsible ocean and coastal economic development, conservation, education, and technology innovation. Our Board of Directors represents ocean-related industries: tourism, ports, shipping, cruise, recreational and commercial fishing, and recreational boating, as well as nonprofit and other marine research institutions, academia, and public interest groups.

The Alliance focuses on innovative thinking, planning and implementation actions to protect and restore Florida's ocean and coastal assets, while promoting responsible economic growth, diversification and job creation within the state's ocean and coastal industry sectors.

Florida's ocean and coastal resources provide billions of dollars and support hundreds of thousands of jobs, significantly impacting the state's economy. Ocean-related industries, including fishing, shipping, recreational boating, tourism, technology and others comprise a major segment of Florida's vital blue economy. However, climate change, declining water quality, damaged natural habitats, and the increasing vulnerability of coastal human-built and natural infrastructure continue to put the blue economy at risk.

The 2020 economic report, <u>Securing Florida's Blue Economy: Strategic Policy Plan for Florida's Oceans & Coasts</u>, was produced by the Florida Ocean Alliance and submitted to the Florida Legislature, establishing priorities and direction for Alliance members to continue to work together to advance Florida as a leader in resilience, both economically and environmentally.

To learn more about the Florida Ocean Alliance, visit www.FloridaOceanAlliance.org.



Glenn Wiltshire, President of Florida Ocean Alliance and Deputy Port Director at Port Everglades

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