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For Immediate Release

Florida Ocean Alliance to Host Florida Oceans Day on February 1, 2022

Maritime and coastal interests to focus on preventing coastal economic losses

TALLAHASSEE, FL, January 24, 2022 – Florida legislators will join scientists, researchers, and maritime industry leaders on February 1, 2022, to celebrate Florida Oceans Day at the Florida State Capitol. The purpose of Oceans Day is to educate legislators and state agencies on the importance of healthy coasts and oceans to Florida’s economy and to promote sustainable water resources for all Floridians. Florida Oceans Day is produced and sponsored by the Florida Ocean Alliance and Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium.

This year’s theme, “Florida’s Economic Recovery and the Blue Economy,” focuses on the state’s recovery from the pandemic and the role that the ocean economy and maritime industries can play in that recovery.

Florida’s coastal and ocean industries, academia and environmental groups will spearhead events and discussions, including the **Mote Legislative Reception, February 1, 5:30 – 7:30 PM, at The Capitol, 22nd Floor**. The event is hosted by [Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium](#).

Paul Anderson, President of Florida Ocean Alliance and President and CEO of Port Tampa Bay stated, “Over 75 percent of Florida’s population resides in 35 coastal counties. Florida’s economy is dependent on key water-related industries, among them tourism, seaports, and recreation industries. As Florida recovers from the economic losses of the pandemic, these industries will be crucial to the state regaining momentum in economic growth and expansion of jobs.” In 2020, the Florida Ocean Alliance published a [Strategic Policy Plan](#) to restore and grow Florida’s Blue Economy, worth hundreds of billions of dollars in economic revenue and supporting over a million jobs. However, impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, declining water quality, damaged natural habitats, and the vulnerability of both human-built and natural infrastructure continue to put Florida’s Blue Economy at risk. Read the Strategic Policy Plan [here](#).

The [Florida Ocean Alliance](#) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, private-public partnership of private industry, trade, academic and environmental organizations promoting awareness and understanding of the ocean’s importance to the economy and environment of Florida.

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**FLORIDA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY
AND THE BLUE ECONOMY**

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022
Mote Legislative Reception
The Capitol, 22nd Floor, 5:30-7:30 pm**

Sponsored by:
Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium

