

Board of Directors

**Glenn Wiltshire (President)**

*Port Everglades*

**Jackie Larson (Secretary)**

*FL Shore & Beach Preservation Assoc.*

**Richard Dodge, Ph.D. (Treasurer)**

*Nova Southeastern University*

**Paul Anderson (Past President)**

*Port Tampa Bay*

**Anne Birch**

*The Nature Conservancy*

**Josh Carroll**

*Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.*

**Michael Crosby, Ph.D.**

*Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium*

**T. Spencer Crowley III**

*Akerman*

**Duane E. De Freese, Ph.D.**

*Indian River Lagoon Council*

**Jeff Eble**

*Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute*

**William Monty Graham, Ph.D.**

*Florida Institute of Oceanography*

**Sherry Larkin, Ph.D.**

*Florida Sea Grant College Program*

**Kumar Mahadevan, Ph.D.**

*Director Emeritus, Florida Ocean Alliance*

**Denise McCafferty**

*Lloyd's Register*

**David L. McDonald**

*McDonald, Miller & Coleman LLC*

*Director Emeritus, Florida Ocean Alliance*

**Alexis Meschelle**

*Organized Fishermen of Florida*

**James F. Murley, Esq.**

*Miami-Dade County*

**Becky Prado**

*WSP USA*

**Ellen Prager, Ph.D.**

*Earth2Ocean, Inc.*

**Phil Purcell**

*Marine Industries Assoc. of South Florida*

**Kellie Ralston**

*Bonefish & Tarpon Trust*

**Jerry Sansom**

*Director Emeritus, Florida Ocean Alliance*

**Jim Sullivan, Ph.D.**

*Florida Atlantic University*

*Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute*

**Matthew Upton**

*Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Svc.*

**Bradley Watson**

*The Everglades Foundation*

**Jeff Watters**

*The Ocean Conservancy*

**Gretchen Winters**

*Florida Harbor Pilots Association*

**Julie Wraithmell**

*Audubon of Florida*

**Lenore Alpert, Ph.D.**

*Executive Director*

*Florida Ocean Alliance*

August 25, 2023

## **National Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean Economy Office of Science and Technology Policy Comments by the Florida Ocean Alliance**

### **Background**

The Florida Ocean Alliance is pleased to send comments on the request for information on the National Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. We have previously provided comments on the U.S. Ocean Climate Action Plan, so will supplement those responses with these comments. In addition, we refer to a report mentioned in that filing, the 2020 “Strategic Plan for Florida’s Oceans and Coasts,” and additionally the Alliance’s 2023 “Priorities for a Sustainable Future for Florida’s Oceans and Coasts.” <https://www.floridaoceanalliance.org/s/Florida-Ocean-Alliance-2023-Priorities-and-Letter-to-Gov-DeSantis-and-Legislature-031323.pdf>

### **Partnerships**

As a statewide organization in Florida, the Florida Ocean Alliance represents all the various sectors of the ocean economy, including tourism, ports, boating and fishing, among others, as well as non-governmental environmental organizations and research institutes. We recognize the crucial need for a sustainable ocean economy since a significant part of our state’s economy is dependent on healthy oceans. The Alliance has championed both the Blue Economy and Coastal Resilience. Our main message is that we need to aggressively address climate change related issues while supporting the economic activity of key marine industries. Our state’s residents, and particularly its marine industries, are well aware of the climate issues facing our state and the nation, having experienced many of these firsthand in Florida. We strongly support reasonable and sustainable use of the oceans and coastal resources, along with protection of our precious environment and natural infrastructure (e.g., coral reefs) that Floridians and tourists alike depend on for work and play.



401 East Las Olas Boulevard  
Suite 130-224  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Phone: 954-647-4097

### Board of Directors

**Glenn Wiltshire (President)**

*Port Everglades*

**Jackie Larson (Secretary)**

*FL Shore & Beach Preservation Assoc.*

**Richard Dodge, Ph.D. (Treasurer)**

*Nova Southeastern University*

**Paul Anderson (Past President)**

*Port Tampa Bay*

**Anne Birch**

*The Nature Conservancy*

**Josh Carroll**

*Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.*

**Michael Crosby, Ph.D.**

*Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium*

**T. Spencer Crowley III**

*Akerman*

**Duane E. De Freese, Ph.D.**

*Indian River Lagoon Council*

**Jeff Eble**

*Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute*

**William Monty Graham, Ph.D.**

*Florida Institute of Oceanography*

**Sherry Larkin, Ph.D.**

*Florida Sea Grant College Program*

**Kumar Mahadevan, Ph.D.**

*Director Emeritus, Florida Ocean Alliance*

**Denise McCafferty**

*Lloyd's Register*

**David L. McDonald**

*McDonald, Miller & Coleman LLC*

*Director Emeritus, Florida Ocean Alliance*

**Alexis Meschelle**

*Organized Fishermen of Florida*

**James F. Murley, Esq.**

*Miami-Dade County*

**Becky Prado**

*WSP USA*

**Ellen Prager, Ph.D.**

*Earth2Ocean, Inc.*

**Phil Purcell**

*Marine Industries Assoc. of South Florida*

**Kellie Ralston**

*Bonefish & Tarpon Trust*

**Jerry Sansom**

*Director Emeritus, Florida Ocean Alliance*

**Jim Sullivan, Ph.D.**

*Florida Atlantic University*

*Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute*

**Matthew Upton**

*Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Svc.*

**Bradley Watson**

*The Everglades Foundation*

**Jeff Watters**

*The Ocean Conservancy*

**Gretchen Winters**

*Florida Harbor Pilots Association*

**Julie Wraithmell**

*Audubon of Florida*

**Lenore Alpert, Ph.D.**

*Executive Director*

*Florida Ocean Alliance*

## Critical Actions

In order to ensure that the oceans and coasts are protected and remain sustainable, providing the foundation for a viable ocean economy, the nation's leaders need to assist the states and local governments in fostering and funding new initiatives to address climate change and resilient ocean industries, as well as job development programs. New technology can help enormously in this effort, as can partnerships between state, local and federal authorities and state, local and regional partnerships. For example, the Alliance serves to coordinate activity between its members and activity to further the Blue Economy. We recruit members who can help entrepreneurs and startups develop and excel with new ideas and new approaches to solving these difficult climate-related issues. Ultimately, promoting a sustainable ocean economy is about developing jobs and potentially new industries. Job growth in the ocean economy is essential to the economies of Florida and other coastal states.

Another way to address Blue Economy issues is by educating students in high school, college and vocational training about current climate related challenges and future opportunities for marine jobs. Economic development programs for developing marine businesses are important, as is workforce development in the ocean economy. These can help support a sustainable ocean economy and promote future marine industry jobs. As well, we should provide education and training for scientists and provide support for research by these scientists, who can help secure a healthier ocean and solutions to climate problems that can aid development of the ocean economy. Each state may have potentially different needs, so it is up to each to set its own parameters for addressing and solving these issues and marrying the ocean economy with environmental protections. It is important that statewide and regional organizations such as the Florida Ocean Alliance be engaged and involved in this effort to promote new directions for addressing these problems.



401 East Las Olas Boulevard  
Suite 130-224  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Phone: 954-647-4097

### Board of Directors

**Glenn Wiltshire (President)**

*Port Everglades*

**Jackie Larson (Secretary)**

*FL Shore & Beach Preservation Assoc.*

**Richard Dodge, Ph.D. (Treasurer)**

*Nova Southeastern University*

**Paul Anderson (Past President)**

*Port Tampa Bay*

**Anne Birch**

*The Nature Conservancy*

**Josh Carroll**

*Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.*

**Michael Crosby, Ph.D.**

*Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium*

**T. Spencer Crowley III**

*Akerman*

**Duane E. De Freese, Ph.D.**

*Indian River Lagoon Council*

**Jeff Eble**

*Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute*

**William Monty Graham, Ph.D.**

*Florida Institute of Oceanography*

**Sherry Larkin, Ph.D.**

*Florida Sea Grant College Program*

**Kumar Mahadevan, Ph.D.**

*Director Emeritus, Florida Ocean Alliance*

**Denise McCafferty**

*Lloyd's Register*

**David L. McDonald**

*McDonald, Miller & Coleman LLC*

*Director Emeritus, Florida Ocean Alliance*

**Alexis Meschelle**

*Organized Fishermen of Florida*

**James F. Murley, Esq.**

*Miami-Dade County*

**Becky Prado**

*WSP USA*

**Ellen Prager, Ph.D.**

*Earth2Ocean, Inc.*

**Phil Purcell**

*Marine Industries Assoc. of South Florida*

**Kellie Ralston**

*Bonefish & Tarpon Trust*

**Jerry Sansom**

*Director Emeritus, Florida Ocean Alliance*

**Jim Sullivan, Ph.D.**

*Florida Atlantic University*

*Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute*

**Matthew Upton**

*Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Svc.*

**Bradley Watson**

*The Everglades Foundation*

**Jeff Watters**

*The Ocean Conservancy*

**Gretchen Winters**

*Florida Harbor Pilots Association*

**Julie Wraithmell**

*Audubon of Florida*

**Lenore Alpert, Ph.D.**

*Executive Director*

*Florida Ocean Alliance*

## Federal Role

The federal government also has a leadership role to play -- providing funds, guidance, overall plans, encouragement and incentives to the states and local governments. After all, climate change is a global and national issue affecting every country and state, and it has substantial impact on our nation's ocean economy, as well as on individual state economies. As a country, we need to face these challenges together since the national economy and ocean economy are intertwined and vital to our nation's growth and prosperity. America's coastal states need a healthy ocean to ensure both a healthy environment and a vibrant ocean economy that benefits all of us.

Thank you for considering our comments. We look forward to learning the outcomes of this important initiative.