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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

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**Statement by
GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST
Regarding Navy Secretary Mabus' Recovery Plan for the Gulf Coast**

"I appreciate Secretary Mabus' efforts in developing a long-term recovery plan. The report is an important first step toward receiving the funds needed to restore the Gulf States' natural resources and rebuild our economy in the wake of the devastating oil spill. Funds from civil penalties levied against BP will enable Florida and her sister states to quickly begin projects that will help repair our state's environment, economy and quality of life.

"The people of Florida deserve reassurance from all levels of government that we are committed to helping them regain their livelihoods and restore the Gulf of Mexico, which serves as the economic backbone of the region. At both the state and federal levels, we must invest in protecting the Gulf region's natural beauty, as well as industries like tourism and seafood that rely on the Gulf.

"I urge Congress to move quickly to make funding for Gulf restoration the highest priority; time is of the essence. As we move forward, I remain committed to ensuring that Florida's Gulf Coast receives both the attention and support it so deeply deserves."

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