



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

SEAGRASS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the seagrass community of Florida is the largest seagrass meadow in the world; and

WHEREAS, the seagrass community supports hundreds of species of fish, sea turtles, manatees and other wildlife at various stages of their development; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, seagrass communities in Florida supported an estimated harvest of \$71,400,000 for six seagrass-dependant, commercial species of fish and shellfish; and

WHEREAS, seagrass stabilizes bottom sediments and helps absorb the excess nutrients from land run-off which can further damage the quality of our waters; and

WHEREAS, awareness of the problems facing this vital natural resource will help to create an understanding of the ways seagrass damage can impact both the economic and ecological value of our marine resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing March 2007, as *Seagrass Awareness Month*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 28th day of February, in the year two thousand seven.



Charlie Crist

Governor