

**Caribbean Conservation Corporation and Sea Turtle Survival League ●
Clean Water Network of Florida ● Environmental Defense ●
National Wildlife Federation ● Natural Resources Defense Council ●
The Ocean Conservancy ● Reef Relief ● Surfrider Foundation**

Top Policy Recommendations That Should be Implemented in the Next Year to Protect Florida's Coasts and Oceans

Strengthen Ocean Governance

- Hold a Governor's Coasts and Oceans Symposium that will form the basis for a plan of action for better ocean and coastal protection and make implementation of the plan a top priority of the new Administration.
- Create a Coastal and Ocean Policy Office in the executive office of the Governor to coordinate scattered programs and provide unified leadership for ocean and coastal management.

Curb Unwise Coastal Development and Protect Valuable Coastal Habitats

- Revise the Coastal Construction Control Line Program in order to ensure the program is accomplishing its original coastal resource protection goals (including long term protection of the beach and dune system) and explore a policy of siting of coastal development away from critically eroding shorelines.
- Discontinue state efforts to assume delegation of wetlands permitting rules from the federal government and stop allowing wetlands destruction in exchange for wetlands mitigation, since scientific experts document that wetlands mitigation has not lived up to its promise.

Reduce Coastal and Ocean Pollution

- Halt the state's efforts to weaken water quality standards and, instead, develop stronger standards, including numeric criteria for nutrients. Include an enforceable nitrogen standard in the Everglades restoration plan in order to protect Florida Bay and the downstream coral reefs of the Florida Keys.
- Upgrade the state's stormwater regulations to address both dissolved and solid pollutants to ensure that water quality is not degraded by construction or new development.
- Oppose opening up new areas of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas activities.

Restore Marine Ecosystems, Ensure Robust Fisheries, and Protect Marine Species

- Integrate Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's marine fisheries management with DEP's management of submerged sovereign lands, coastal ecosystems and water quality to achieve more effective management of valuable fisheries, special places and the ecosystems upon which they depend.
- Restore the operating budget of the Florida Oceans and Coastal Resources Council and support funding for the ocean research priorities identified by the Council.

Reduce Global Warming Pollution

- Lead a public driven process that will by the end of 2007 result in a plan to:
 - Combat the effects of global warming in order to protect Florida from the worst of its impacts, such as stronger hurricanes, dying coral reefs and threatened fisheries, rising sea-levels, and threatened coastal communities;
 - Reduce Florida's contribution of harmful greenhouse gases; and
 - Lead our state to a new energy future that will create a more secure and prosperous and energy independent Florida.