

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, the seagrass community of South 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 1999 alone, seagrass communities in the State of Florida supported an estimated harvest of \$112,100,771 for seagrass-dependant, commercial species of fish and shellfish; and

WHEREAS, while there were 2,658,290 reported acres of seagrass in 1995, over 173,960 acres had propeller scars; and

WHEREAS, seagrass stabilizes bottom sediments and helps to 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, Jeb Bush, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing Seagrass Awareness Month, March, 2001.

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
8th day of January in the year
of our Lord two thousand one.

Jeb Bush
Governor