



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL MONTH

WHEREAS, the month of July 2010, be declared as Marine Debris Removal Month; and

WHEREAS, monofilament fishing line and other marine debris ensnares, traps and kills birds, sea turtles, crustaceans, marine mammals and other aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, six-pack rings, fishing line and strapping bands entangle and kill thousands of marine life yearly and plastic products can last hundreds of years, and soda bottle caps are mistaken for food and cause starvation by blocking their digestive system; and

WHEREAS, is it important that organizations, businesses, and individuals participate by coordinating cleanup groups; and

WHEREAS, scuba divers, boaters, paddlers and others participating in aquatic activities remove nets and fishing line from ship wrecks, reefs, jetties, inlets, fishing cat walks, shorelines and wherever such debris is spotted; and

WHEREAS, everyone in the State of Florida participating in aquatic activities is asked to look for and remove fishing line, nets, packing bands, six pack rings, plastic bottle caps and all other debris that is hazardous to marine and other wildlife and

WHEREAS, many beach goers drag ropes, nets, and large debris up and beyond the ocean and gulf tide line until permanent removal; and

WHEREAS, municipalities and counties provide support when possible by hauling collected debris to appropriate locations; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that Floridians and visitors recycle fishing line and other debris when possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing July 2010 as *Marine Debris Removal 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 Capitol, this 28th day of June, in the year two thousand ten.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Charlie Crist".

Governor