

## Monroe County Proclamation

WHEREAS, the seagrass community of South Florida is the largest seagrass meadow in the world and has helped create and sustain the world class fishing in the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, many commercial fishery species rely on seagrass habitat during some part of their life cycles including pink shrimp, lobster, red fish, snapper, and stone crab; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 alone, seagrass communities in Monroe County supported an estimated harvest of roughly \$25.8 million for six commercial species of fish and shellfish; and

WHEREAS, while there are 1.5 million acres of seagrass in Monroe County, Florida over 30,000 acres in South Florida have 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, the seagrass community supports hundreds of species of fish at various stages of their development; 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, by virtue of the power vested in me as \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, I do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2007 as

### SEAGRASS AWARENESS MONTH

DATED this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

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