



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

MANATEE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the manatee is Florida's official marine mammal, a distinctive and valuable beloved natural resource; and

WHEREAS, the gentle, slow-moving marine mammal is protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act; and

WHEREAS, it is important for Floridians to understand their role in protecting manatees, especially in light of near record-setting manatee mortality; and

WHEREAS, manatees face the risk of extinction due to human related threats including the loss of warm water winter habitat; and

WHEREAS, raising public awareness through exhibits, school and community programs, and electronic communication and print media, increases appreciation and conservation of the species; and

WHEREAS, cooperation among Florida's public, private and governmental organizations is vital to saving manatees, and organizations and individuals must continue working together for the long-term survival of the manatee; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing November 2009 as *Manatee 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 Capitol, this 5th day of October, in the year two thousand nine.

A blue ink signature of Charlie Crist, written in a cursive style.

Governor