

RESOLUTION #2010-__

A RESOLUTION OF TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT DUE TO THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL DRILLING DISASTER AND THE IMPACT ON OUR LOCAL ECONOMY AND THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT TO THE BIG BEND SEAGRASS PRESERVE AND THE TAYLOR COUNTY COASTLINE, THAT THE START DATE FOR THE 2010 SCALLOP SEASON BE CHANGED FROM JULY 1, 2010 TO JUNE 15, 2010 IN ORDER TO LESSEN THE IMPACT ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY

WHEREAS, Taylor County is known nationwide for its expansive sea grasses and clear waters that enable it to have one of the most productive coast in the state of Florida, for the recreational harvesting of the Florida Bay Scallop, and

WHEREAS, this reputation results in thousands of visitors to Taylor County each and every year, staying in our hotels, eating in our restaurants, purchasing goods and services in our community, and

WHEREAS, according to a University of Florida study, scalloping in Taylor County results in an economic impact to our local economy of tens of millions of dollars annually, and

WHEREAS, Taylor County is designated by the Governor as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern, struggling to maintain basic governmental services, and

WHEREAS, the oil continues to spill from the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform and all efforts to stop the discharge have failed and may not succeed for an extended period of time, and

WHEREAS, while Taylor County is currently considered out of the path of the oil, the continuance of oil leaking in the gulf and the onset of hurricane season daily increases the odds that Taylor County's Coastline and the Big Bend Sea Grass Preserve and our scallop population will be negatively impacted, and

WHEREAS, at the present time our coastline is still pristine and scallops are plentiful, it is the desire of our residents and the Board of County Commissioners that the State consider these mitigating factors and take appropriate steps to open scallop season early this year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Taylor County Board of County Commissioners respectfully requests that the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commissioner (FWC), the Florida Legislature and the Governor of the State of Florida open the 2010 scallop season early to help lessen the impact on our local economy.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County, Florida, does in regular session tender this resolution requesting that the start date for the 2010 scallop season be changed to Jun 15, 2010. PASSED in regular session this 7th day of June 2010



ATTEST:
Annie Mae Murphy
ANNIE MAE MURPHY, CLERK

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY: *[Signature]*
MARK WIGGINS, CHAIR