



Press Release

Congressman Tim Mahoney
Representing Florida's 16th Congressional District

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MAHONEY ANNOUNCES \$250,000 FEDERAL GRANT TO SUPPORT THE PERRY INSTITUTE'S UNDERSEA RESEARCH IN THE CARIBBEAN

(Washington, DC) - **Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16)** today announced the awarding of a \$250,000 federal grant for research at the Perry Institute for Marine Science's Caribbean Marine Research Center in Jupiter, FL. The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Commerce via the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

"The Perry Institute conducts cutting edge undersea research and scientific exploration. Unfortunately, funding for the Perry Institute has dramatically declined in 2006, due to cuts in federal funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This grant will help keep the institute from shutting down its operations completely but is much less than needed to be a functioning marine research center. Typically, NOAA allocates about \$1.3 million annually to the Perry Institute. I am proud that the proposed budget for NOAA for FY 08 is \$4 billion, which is nearly \$57 million above the funds they received for FY 2007, and \$141 million above the President's request." said **Congressman Tim Mahoney**.

"We have enjoyed more than 20 years of continuous funding as one of NOAA's Undersea Research Centers and this support has led to numerous advances in ecosystem science that improve decisions for ocean resource management. We are very anxious to see the agency's decisions reversed to close our center and for Congress to provide enough funding for this NOAA program so that our research activities and operations return to a respectable level," said Dr. Marr, Executive Director of the Perry Institute for Marine Science.

The Perry Institute is one of six regional NOAA Undersea Research Program Centers. Each works with scientists to use advanced underwater technologies and methods to conduct research, including human occupied submersibles, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and autonomous underwater vehicles.

Funding for the NOAA for FY 2008 will be appropriated through the Commerce/Justice/Science Appropriations Bill, which is expected to be considered by the U.S. House of Representatives later this week. Currently, the bill includes \$4.0 billion in funding for the NOAA, which is \$56.9 million above the FY2007 level and \$141 million above the President's request.

For more information, see www.perryinstitute.org or contact Dr. John Marr at the Perry Institute at 561-741-0192 ext. 110.

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