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Contact:

Joel Kaiman, TJM Communications, Inc.
(407) 977-5004; joel@tjmcommunications.com

Treva J. Marshall, TJM Communications, Inc.
(407) 977-5004; treva@tjmcommunications.com

Donna Balancia, TJM Communications, Inc.
(321) 698-8387; donna@tjmcommunications.com

Get into the Surfing Lifestyle in Cocoa Beach

COCOA BEACH, Fla. – Steady waves, year-round warm weather and world-class surf shops are a few reasons why Cocoa Beach has become recognized as the East Coast surfing capital of the United States.

Every year, thousands of surfers from across the globe visit Cocoa Beach to experience the same waves where some of the best surfers in the world learned their craft, including nine-time world champion Kelly Slater, who was born and raised in Cocoa Beach.

The destination also is home to numerous surf shops and surfing schools and camps. Among them is the world-famous **Ron Jon Surf Shop** as well as the world's largest surf complex, **Cocoa Beach Surf Co.** Both feature the latest in surfboards, surf equipment and surf styles and offer lessons for beginners or those just looking to hone their skills.

Getting a board and hitting the waves when it is a good day is one of the best things to do along Florida's Space Coast. An ideal visit to the area definitely includes a surf session in Cocoa Beach.

After experiencing the waves, surf enthusiasts can visit the **East Coast Surfing Hall of Fame** to learn about the lessons and lore of the sport, when watermen – and women – took their heavy boards and paddled out to sea.

Surf spectators should make a trip to the **Cocoa Beach Pier**, a surfing hot spot, where they can enjoy plenty of restaurants, shops and bars. The Pier also is a popular location for world-renowned surfing competitions including the Ron Jon Easter Surfing Festival and National Kidney Foundation Labor Day Surfing Festival.

There are plenty of area hotels near the ocean where visitors can spend the weekend surfing and relaxing. So make waves in Cocoa Beach!

Located 35 miles (56 km) east of Orlando, Florida's Space Coast is home to Orlando's closest beaches. A family-friendly destination with more than 10,000 guest rooms, the area is an ideal, value getaway, offering adventure, history and nature. With 72 miles (110 km) of beaches, the longest stretch in the state, and 250 square miles of wildlife refuge, the Space Coast is one of the largest intact eco-systems in Florida. Home to NASA's Kennedy Space Center, it is the only place in the country where one can watch a live shuttle launch, and after the shuttle program ends will continue to offer viewing opportunities for unmanned rocket launches. Encompassing Cocoa Beach, Melbourne Beach, Palm Bay and Titusville, the Space Coast also is noted for surfing, its numerous history and art museums, and a popular cruise port, Port Canaveral. For more information, contact the Space Coast Office of Tourism at (877) 572-3224 or visit www.space-coast.com. Visit www.spacecoastlaunches.com to learn about remaining shuttle and upcoming rocket launches.

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