



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**SURFING MONTH**

**2017**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina was a pioneer of East Coast surfing; the April 2, 1910, edition of Colliers Weekly includes a letter from Wrightsville Beach resident Burke Haywood Bridgers describing surfing activities in our state as early as 1909; and

**WHEREAS**, surfing along North Carolina's 300-mile coastline continues to be a popular sport for residents and tourists of all skill levels, especially during the fall when surf conditions are most favorable; and

**WHEREAS**, consistently, North Carolina receives national and international recognition as a top surfing destination — in 2014, National Geographic Magazine named Wrightsville Beach one of "The World's 20 Best Surf Towns"; and

**WHEREAS**, surfing in our state has an estimated annual economic impact of more than \$3 million; small businesses that serve the surf community — such as shops, schools, camps, board manufacturers, non-profit charities, and equipment rental companies — have experienced growth in recent years, and tourism businesses such as restaurants, shops, and hotels regularly benefit from the patronage of visiting surfers; and

**WHEREAS**, competitive professional and amateur surf events take place in North Carolina year-round, including the ESA Eastern Surfing Championship at Nags Head, the Surfalorus Film Festival, and the NC Surf to Sound Challenge in Wrightsville Beach; the surf team at UNC-Wilmington — one of Surfer Magazine's 2011 "Top Surf Colleges in the USA" — represents our state in regional and national competitions; and

**WHEREAS**, Waterman's Hall of Fame at the Wrightsville Beach Museum of History, exhibits at UNC-Wilmington's Randall Library, surf art galleries, and other landmarks pay homage to our surf history; in 2015, the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources unveiled a Historical Highway Marker to honor Pioneer East Coast Surfing in Wrightsville Beach — the birthplace of surfing in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina celebrates our state's long surfing history, and recognizes the benefits that an active surfing culture bring to our east coast's economy and tourism industry;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER**, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2017, as "SURFING MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-first day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.