

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

SURFING MONTH

2020

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 activity in our state as early as 1909; an announcement in the Wilmington Morning Star on June 30, 1910 includes mention of one of the earliest surfboard riding competitions in the mainland United States and direct communications with Alexander Hume Ford; and

WHEREAS, surfing along North Carolina's roughly 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; the East Coast of the United States, and particularly the Outer Banks, is one of the world's greatest surfing areas; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina consistently 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, competitive professional and amateur events historically take place in North Carolina year-round including: the Eastern Surfing championships at Nags Head, ESA Southern North Carolina South End Surf Shop Surfing Championships, and the Wrightsville Beach Stand Up Paddle Board Surfing PRO AM; the surf team at UNC-Wilmington was cited as one of Surfer Magazine's "Top Surf Colleges in the USA" in 2011 and represents our state in regional and national competitions; and

WHEREAS, surfing in our state has an estimated annual economic impact of more than \$3 million, according to a report by the Surfrider Foundation; and

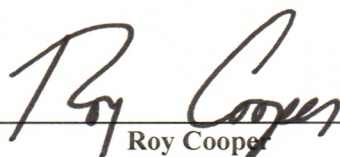
WHEREAS, The Friends of Wrightsville Beach Reunion, The Waterman Hall of Fame at the Wrightsville Beach Museum of History, and small businesses that serve the surf community - such as shops, schools, camps, board manufacturers, non-profit charities, and equipment rental companies - have experienced growth in recent years; businesses that rely heavily on tourism, such as restaurants, shops, and hotels, regularly benefit from the patronage of visiting surfers; and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Surfing Hall of Fame, exhibits at UNC-Wilmington, 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 brings to our state's economy and tourism industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2020, 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 eighteenth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.