



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

2023

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, North Carolina has a rich tradition of hunting and angling that dates back hundreds of years and continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, hunting and angling continue to be integral components of the cultural fabric of communities throughout the state, and over the past year have offered a growing number of participants opportunities to connect with nature on a personal level while simultaneously providing food security, a sense of self-sufficiency, and both mental and physical health benefits; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitat; through their license fees, they have helped fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and

WHEREAS, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, sportsmen and women supported self-imposed excise taxes on firearms and ammunition, fishing tackle, and motorboat fuel to raise additional conservation funds; and

WHEREAS, to this day, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is funded, in part, by sportsmen and women, through this American System of Conservation Funding, a "user pays – public benefits" approach that is widely recognized as the most successful model for funding fish and wildlife management in the world; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, North Carolina's sportsmen and women generated \$88.6 million through this system to support the conservation efforts of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission; and

WHEREAS, 2.1 million hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$11.8 billion spent on outdoor activities in North Carolina last year; and

WHEREAS, according to 2022 data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, on the national level sportsmen and women spent more than \$38 billion on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, which does not include spending on items such as trips and travel, or license fees that were necessary for their participation; and,

WHEREAS, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to celebrate and recognize hunters and anglers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife conservation, and to our society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2023, as "**NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY**" 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-second day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.