

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Mississippi has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling, that dates back further than the state itself and carries forward to this day; and

WHEREAS, hunting and angling continue to be an integral component of the cultural fabric of communities throughout the state, and over recent years have offered a growing number of participants an opportunity 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, Mississippi's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitat, and through their license fees 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 fuels to raise additional conservation funds; and

WHEREAS, to this day, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks 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, last year alone, Mississippi's sportsmen and women generated \$42,480,729 through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks; and

WHEREAS, 608,371 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$3 billion spent on outdoor activities in Mississippi 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, not including spending on related items such as trips and travel, or license fees necessary for their participation; and

WHEREAS, spending on hunting and fishing has helped fuel the outdoor economy comprising 2.4% of Mississippi's GDP in 2022; 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, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling and proclaim Saturday, September 23, 2023, to be

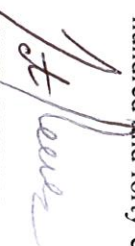
HUNTING AND FISHING DAY IN MISSISSIPPI

a day to be set aside in celebration of Mississippi's sportsmen and women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 28TH day of August 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.




TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR