

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania 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, Pennsylvania's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission 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, ammunition, fishing tackle, and motorboat fuels to raise additional conservation funds; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission are 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, Pennsylvania's sportsmen and women generated \$89,280,456 through this system to support the conservation efforts and 2,100,875 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$13 billion spent on outdoor activities in Pennsylvania last year; and

WHEREAS, this 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.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2023 to be

HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

in celebration of Pennsylvania's hunters and anglers. I encourage all citizens to recognize the benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this first day of August two thousand twenty-three, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-eighth.

Governor Josh Shapiro