

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, Massachusetts 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, Massachusetts' sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game and its Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and Division of Marine Fisheries to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat; and

Whereas, Sportsmen and women's 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 Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game 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, Massachusetts' sportsmen and women generated more than \$23 million through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game; and

Whereas, More than 540,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending more than \$600 million while engaged in their pursuits; and

Whereas, This spending supports over 9,000 jobs in Massachusetts and generates \$70 million in state and local taxes; 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,

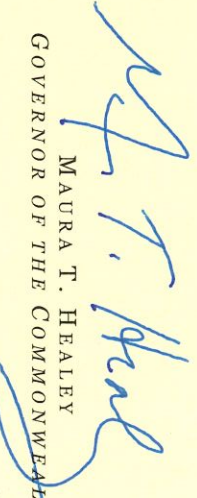
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim September 23rd, 2023, to be,

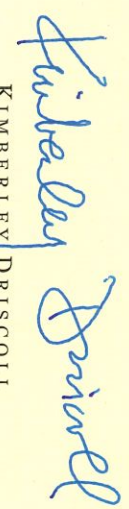
HUNTING AND FISHING DAY


And urge all the residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of September, in the year two thousand and twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-seventh.

BY HER EXCELLENCY


MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts