

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
A Proclamation
His Excellency Governor Charles D. Baker

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, Massachusetts's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game 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 hunting, fishing and boating equipment to raise additional conservation funds; and

Whereas, To this day, the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game is funded primarily 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 of fish and wildlife management in the world; and

Whereas, Last year alone, Massachusetts's sportsmen and women generated over \$17.8 million through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game; 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, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim Saturday, September 26th, 2015 to be,

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

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

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this Fourteenth Day of September, in the year two thousand and fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

By His Excellency

Charles D. Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth

Karyn E. Polito
Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts