

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's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Massachusetts Department of Fish & 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 firearms and ammunition, fishing tackle and motorboat fuels to raise additional conservation funds; and

Whereas, To this day, the Massachusetts Fish & Game Department is funded, in part, by sportsmen and women, through the 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's sportsmen and women generated \$18,041,107 through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Massachusetts Fish & Game Department; and

Whereas, 366,294 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$7.6 billion spent on outdoor activities in Massachusetts last year; and

Whereas, According to 2021 data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, on the national level sportsmen and women spent more than \$39 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. This spending helped fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised 1.4% of Massachusetts's GDP that same year; 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 September, 24th, 2022, 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 twenty-fourth day of September, in the year two thousand and twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Kathryn E. Polito in blue ink.

KATHY E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts