

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

WHEREAS, to this day, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks 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, Mississippi sportsmen and women generated \$29 million through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi's 782,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy by spending more than \$2.2 billion while engaged in their pursuits; and

WHEREAS, this spending supports over 33,584 jobs in Mississippi and generates \$187 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 Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim Saturday, September 26, 2015, as

National 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 twenty-fourth day of August, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fortieth.

Handwritten signature of Phil Bryant in blue ink.

PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR