



State of Rhode Island
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION
National Hunting and Fishing Day

WHEREAS, Rhode Island has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling that dates back further than the state itself; these traditions have been carried forward to this day; and

WHEREAS, our state's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to conserve and manage fish, wildlife and their habitats, 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 Department of Environmental Management's Division of Fish and Wildlife is funded primarily 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 of fish and wildlife management in the world; and

WHEREAS, last year alone, Rhode Island's sportsmen and women generated \$8.97 million through this system to support the conservation efforts of the Department of Environmental Management; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's 179,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy by spending more than \$154 million annually while engaged in their pursuits, which results in over 2,347 jobs in Rhode Island and generates \$18 million in state and local taxes; and

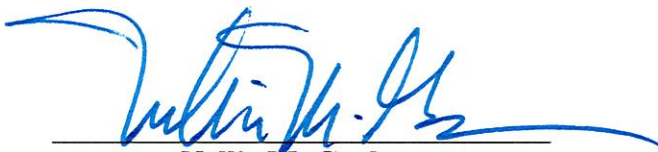
WHEREAS, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to celebrate and recognize hunters and anglers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife conservation and to our society.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel J. McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2021 to be *National Hunting and Fishing Day* in the state to recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling.

Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island,
this 26th day of September, 2021.



Daniel J. McKee
Governor



Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State