



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

Whereas, Delaware has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling that predates the State itself and continues today, providing opportunities to connect with nature while supporting food security, self-sufficiency, and physical and mental well-being; and

Whereas, Delaware's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Division of Fish and Wildlife to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitats, with license fees helping fund these efforts; and

Whereas, recognizing that additional resources were needed to sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, sportsmen and women supported self-imposed excise taxes on firearms and ammunition, fishing tackle, and motorboat fuels, helping establish the American System of Conservation Funding, a "user pays – public benefits" approach that continues to support Delaware's conservation efforts; and

Whereas, Delaware's 97,843 hunters and anglers generated \$12.3 million for conservation through this system last year and contributed to the State's outdoor economy, which saw \$1.7 billion in spending last year, while the national outdoor economy accounted for 1.6 percent of Delaware's gross domestic product; and

Whereas, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to celebrate hunters and anglers and recognize their significant contributions to fish and wildlife conservation and communities across the nation.

Now, Therefore, I, Matthew Meyer, Governor,
do hereby recognize September 26, 2026, as
NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

in the State of Delaware, and encourage all Delawareans to recognize the longstanding traditions of hunting and angling and the important role sportsmen and women play in conserving our State's natural resources.




Matthew Meyer
Governor