

Proclamation

by

Andy Beshear
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

WHEREAS, Kentucky 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 integral components of the cultural fabric of communities throughout the Commonwealth, and over recent years hunting and angling 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, Kentucky's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitat, and through their license fees help 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 Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is funded, in part, 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 for funding fish and wildlife management in the world; and

WHEREAS, Last year alone, Kentucky's sportsmen and women generated \$55.6 million through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; and

WHEREAS, 844,156 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$6.3 billion spent on outdoor activities in Kentucky last year; and

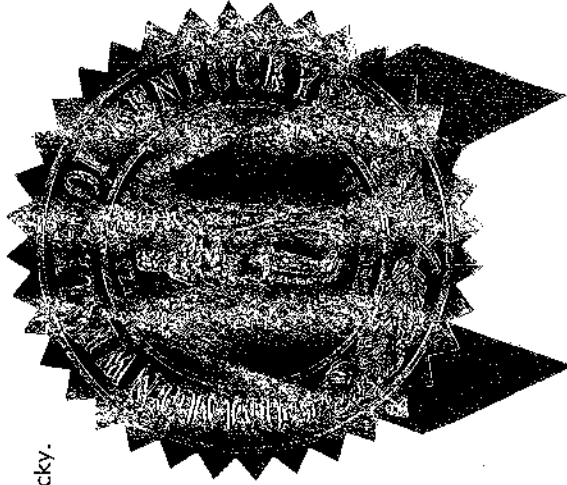
WHEREAS, According to the most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, on the national level sportsmen and women spent more than \$41 billion on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, which does not include spending on items such as trips and travel, or license fees that were necessary for their participation. This spending helped fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised 2.2% of Kentucky'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, ANDY BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2026, as

in Kentucky.

HUNTING AND FISHING DAY



Done in the City of Frankfort on the 4th day of September, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six and in the 235th year of the Commonwealth.

Andy Beshear
ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

Michael G. Adams
Michael G. Adams
Secretary of State