



John Bel Edwards
GOVERNOR
Proclamation

WHEREAS, Louisiana has a rich 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 offer 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, Louisiana sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat and through their license fees helped to fund state efforts in order 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 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 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 for funding fish and wildlife management in the world; and

WHEREAS, last year alone, Louisiana's sportsmen and women generated \$43.18 million through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, 904,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending more than \$1.67 billion while engaged in their pursuits; and

WHEREAS, this spending supports over 23,345 jobs in Louisiana and generates \$165 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, John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2020 as

HUNTING AND FISHING DAY
in the State of Louisiana.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 26th day of September A.D. 2020.

John Bel Edwards
Governor of Louisiana