

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania 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, Pennsylvania's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission 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 firearms, ammunition, fishing tackle, and motorboat fuels to raise additional conservation funds; and

WHEREAS, hunters and anglers support the Commonwealth's economy through their spending, contributing to the billions spent on outdoor activities in Pennsylvania 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 nearly 2 percent of Pennsylvania's GDP that same year; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's sportsmen and women generated over \$125 million through this system to support conservation efforts and more than 2 million hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the billions spent on outdoor activities in Pennsylvania last year; and

WHEREAS, my Administration signed Act No. 36 of 2025 into law, repealing the Commonwealth's longstanding ban on Sunday hunting to deliver real freedom for Pennsylvania's 850,000 licensed hunters by empowering the Pennsylvania Game Commission to expand Sunday hunting opportunities, and strengthening wildlife conservation efforts while growing rural economies across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, this 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.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2026 to be

HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

in celebration of Pennsylvania's hunters and anglers. I encourage all citizens to recognize the benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this seventeenth day of August two thousand twenty-six, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred fifty-first.

Governor Josh Shapiro