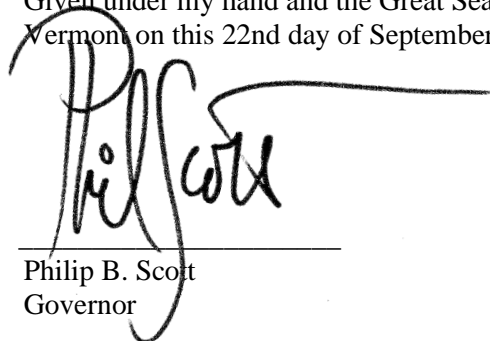


**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**


- WHEREAS,** Vermont 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 an integral component of the cultural fabric of communities throughout Vermont, and over recent years 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,** Vermont’s sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat, and through 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 and ammunition, fishing tackle and motorboat fuels to raise additional conservation funds; and
- WHEREAS,** to this day, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is funded, in part, 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 for funding fish and wildlife management in the world; and
- WHEREAS,** last year alone, Vermont’s sportsmen and women generated \$20,376,536 through this system to support the conservation efforts of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department; and
- WHEREAS,** 189,241 hunters and anglers support Vermont’s economy through their spending, contributing to the \$1.5 billion spent on outdoor activities in Vermont last 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, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim September 23, 2023, as

**HUNTING AND FISHING DAY**  
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 22nd day of September, A.D. 2023.

  
Philip B. Scott  
Governor



  
Brittney J. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs