

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### SPORTFISH RESTORATION PROGRAM'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY AUGUST 9, 2025

**WHEREAS**, more than a century ago, hunters and anglers were among the first conservationists who realized America's natural resources were in peril and could not sustain unregulated harvest and habitat destruction; and

**WHEREAS**, sportsmen and women took it upon themselves to support laws that stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife, established state agencies to protect fish, wildlife and their habitat, and supported special fishing and hunting license fees to help fund the new agencies' efforts to provide healthy natural resources for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor then and now recognizes that the primary authority to protect and manage fish within their state waters resides in the state agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish populations, anglers supported excise taxes on fishing equipment to raise additional funds to support restoration and enhancement efforts of the state agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sport Fish Restoration Program, which began 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950 (further expanded with the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984) is a vital part of conservation funding in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, a manufacturers excise tax on fishing equipment, along with an excise tax on motorboat and small engine fuels, is mostly distributed back to the states through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for fisheries conservation, management, and anglers and boater access; and

**WHEREAS**, this cooperative partnership between the sportfishing industry, anglers, boaters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state natural resource agencies has resulted in the most successful model of fisheries management in the world, restoring and enhancing populations across the United States and its territories; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize America's anglers, boaters, the sportfishing industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish and aquatic resources, both game and non-game, to the abundance we see today with the help of the Sport Fish Restoration Program, in this the 75th anniversary year of the program's establishment as part of the American System of Conservation Funding.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim  
August 9, 2025, **THE SPORTFISH RESTORATION PROGRAM'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY**



  
Kelly Armstrong  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
Michael Howe  
SECRETARY OF STATE