

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

**COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE WILDLIFE AND SPORTFISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS
AMERICA'S GREATEST CONSERVATION STORY**

- WHEREAS,** *Hunters and anglers - our country's earliest conservationists - have supported laws that stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife, established game and fish agencies to protect fish, wildlife and their habitat, and supported special fishing and hunting license fees to help fund efforts to provide for healthy natural resources for future generations; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Hunters and anglers further supported excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery, hunting and fishing equipment to raise funds to support restoration and enhancement efforts of the state agencies, creating the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, was bolstered with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950, and was further expanded with the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Since 1939 the combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs to state fish and wildlife agencies has exceeded \$13 billion - more than any other single conservation effort in American history - which collectively constitute the American System of Conservation Funding; and*
- WHEREAS,** *This cooperative partnership among industry, hunters, anglers, boaters, recreational shooters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state natural resource agencies has resulted in the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world, restoring populations from coast to coast, Alaska and Hawaii.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby recognize Maryland's hunters, anglers, boaters, recreational shooters, industry, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their leadership in restoring healthy populations of fish, wildlife and other natural resources to the abundance we see today through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs, in this the 75th anniversary year of America's greatest conservation story, supported by the American System of Conservation Funding.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 12th day of April
Two Thousand and twelve

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert Ehrlich
Lt. Governor

Joe C. McPherson
Secretary of State