

HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

WHEREAS: Conserving our state's natural and wildlife resources is one of the most important responsibilities we have to future generations in Georgia; and

WHEREAS: Hunters and anglers were among the first to realize this responsibility nearly 100 years ago when they saw firsthand how expanding civilization and unregulated exploitation had caused disastrous declines in wildlife population throughout Georgia; and

WHEREAS: Georgia hunters and anglers took steps to reverse this trend, helping found the conservation movement, supporting laws to stop uncontrolled exploitation of wildlife and helping and helping establish game and fish laws, enforcement and management practices; and

WHEREAS: Hunters and anglers suggested and supported laws to establish special hunting and fishing license fees and special taxes on their equipment to pay for conservation programs, contributing approximately \$2.2 billion through these fees and taxes as well as through private contributions; and

WHEREAS: The conservation programs supported and financed by the Georgia hunters and anglers have benefited hundreds of wildlife species, from deer and wild turkeys to bald eagles and songbirds—wildlife all Georgia can enjoy; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 27, 2003 as HUNTING AND FISHING DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this fifth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand three.