

Ron DeSantis Governor

KEEP FLORIDA FISHING MONTH

WHEREAS, our water and natural resources are the foundation of our economy and way of life in Florida: and

WHEREAS, Florida is known as the "Fishing Capital of the World", and is home to responsibly managed fisheries that comprise of 8,000 lakes, 12,000 miles of fishable rivers, streams and canals, and 2,276 miles of tidal shoreline; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) manages Florida's state fisheries and works to ensure that current and future generations can enjoy Florida's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, FWC strives to keep the state's fisheries thriving for Florida's more than 4 million licensed anglers who support our state's tourism industry and economy; and

WHEREAS, recreational freshwater and saltwater fishing bring further prosperity to our state by contributing \$11.5 billion to Florida's economy and supporting more than 106,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, the 2019-2020 Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget invests more than \$625 million for the protection of Florida's valuable water resources; and

WHEREAS, Florida will continue to fight for our fisherman as we work together to save our waterways, which are part and parcel of our state's DNA; and

WHEREAS, Keep Florida Fishing Month is an opportunity for all Floridians to make efforts to preserve our natural resources and ensure that Florida's anglers have access to clean waters and abundant fisheries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing July 2019 as *Keep Florida Fishing Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1st day of July, in the year two thousand nineteen.

Governor