



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER

GOVERNOR

SURFING MONTH

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, North Carolina was a pioneer of East Coast surfing; an early edition of Colliers Weekly includes a letter from Wrightsville Beach resident Burke Haywood Bridgers describing surfing activities in our state as early as 1909, and an announcement in the Wilmington Morning Star on June 30, 1910, includes mention of one of the earliest documented surfboard riding competitions; and

WHEREAS, surfing along North Carolina's 300-mile coastline continues to be a popular sport for residents and tourists of all skill levels, especially during the fall when surf conditions are most favorable; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina consistently receives national and international recognition as a top surfing destination; in 2014, National Geographic Magazine named Wrightsville Beach one of the world's 20 best surf towns; and

WHEREAS, surfing in our state has an estimated annual economic impact of more than \$3 million; small businesses that serve the surf community – such as shops, schools, camps, board manufacturers, non-profit charities, and equipment rental companies – have experienced growth in recent years, and tourism businesses such as restaurants, shops, and hotels regularly benefit from the patronage of visiting surfers; and

WHEREAS, competitive professional and amateur surf events take place in North Carolina year-round, including the ESA Eastern Surfing Championship at Nags Head, the O'Neill Sweetwater PRO AM Surf Festival in Wrightsville Beach, the Surfalorus Film Festival, and the NC Surf to Sound Challenge in Wrightsville Beach; the surf team at UNC-Wilmington – one of Surfer Magazine's 2011 top surf colleges in the USA – represents our state in regional and national competitions; and

WHEREAS, Waterman's Hall of Fame at the Wrightsville Beach Museum of History, exhibits at UNC-Wilmington's Randall Library, surf art galleries, and other landmarks pay homage to our surf history; in 2015, the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources unveiled a Historical Highway Marker to honor Pioneer East Coast Surfing in Wrightsville Beach – the birthplace of surfing in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina celebrates our state's long surfing history, and recognizes the benefits that an active surfing culture bring to our east coast's economy and tourism industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2018, as "SURFING MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirtieth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.