



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS:** In 1985, Georgia's state marine mammal was declared the North Atlantic right whale, a highly endangered species which spends the winter months in Georgia's warm offshore waters; and
- WHEREAS:** The right whale migrates from its feeding grounds in the North Atlantic to Georgia and North Florida coastlines to give birth to calves, meaning that Georgia's ocean territory serves as a critical nursery habitat for vulnerable young and mother whales; and
- WHEREAS:** Central threats to the North Atlantic right whale include entanglement in fishing gear, collisions with ships, and emergent concerns for other industrialization of offshore waters; and
- WHEREAS:** In partnership with other state and federal governments and stakeholders, the State of Georgia will conduct aerial and boat surveys to monitor the whale population, collect genetic samples, document entangled whales, and remove fishing rope when possible to help conserve right whales in the Southeast; and
- WHEREAS:** During the 2019 calving season, survey teams identified seven females with calves, four adult females without calves, and four adult males. They did not observe any dead, injured, or entangled whales in southeast waters; and
- WHEREAS:** Coastal and inland Georgia communities must be aware of the importance of their waters for the survival of the North Atlantic right whale and aim to protect their offshore habitat to help promote an increase in calving while preventing the mortality of these vulnerable creatures; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim December 2019 as NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 3rd day of December in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



B. P. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Trinity K. Fleming

CHIEF OF STAFF