

# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, the Empire State enjoys rich and varied lands and waters inhabited by abundant species of plants, trees, and wildlife that enhance our State's air and water quality, contribute to the overall environmental balance, support a robust agricultural industry, beautify recreational destinations, and add to property values and local economies; and

**Whereas**, the quality of our lands and waters is at risk from harmful invasive species which have been introduced to New York State and continue to spread, harming the environment, the economy, and even human health; invasive species are those which are non-native to a region and can come from around the world and, as international trade increases, so does the rate of invasive species introductions; and

**Whereas**, invasive species are one of the greatest threats to New York's biodiversity and its bionetwork, causing or contributing to: habitat degradation and loss; loss of native fish, wildlife, and tree species; loss of recreational opportunities and income; crop damage and diseases in humans and livestock; and

**Whereas**, New York continues to invest in invasive species control and prevention initiatives with resources including the State Environmental Protection Fund, which was again funded to a record level of \$300 million in the 2019-2020 budget; and

**Whereas**, efforts are being undertaken in New York State in partnership with private and nonprofit organizations, universities, and local, state and federal agencies to reduce the specific risks of harmful invasive species to the State's natural resources, economy, and human health; and

**Whereas**, New Yorkers share a concern for the safety and well-being of our environment, and support initiatives through which we can illustrate our ongoing commitment to the State's precious natural resources and cherished lands and waters which reflect our noble heritage and have a meaningful impact upon the quality of life and economic prosperity of New Yorkers; and

**Whereas**, increased awareness and understanding about the need to stop the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species are important to the future of New York State, and residents and visitors alike are encouraged to learn more about these invasive species and their damaging environmental, societal, and economic impact on New York State, the nation, and the entire world; and

**Whereas**, summer marks the high season of tourism, boating, camping and agricultural productivity in New York State and Invasive Species Awareness Week provides an opportunity for all to express support for the goals of this observance and to extend appreciation to the agencies, businesses, environmental groups, academic institutions, community organizations, and volunteers that are taking action against the spread of invasive species;

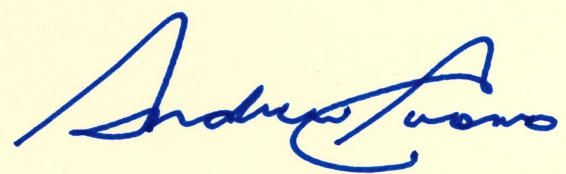
**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim the week of July 7-13, 2019 as


## INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK

in the Empire State.



**Given** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this second day  
of July in the year two thousand nineteen.

  
Governor

  
Secretary to the Governor  
*Melissa DeRosa*