



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ICF Awards 2020 Wildwater World Championships and Worlds Cups to USA World Championships & World Cup Races to be held April-May 2019

15 March 2019 (Fredericksburg, VA USA) - The International Canoe Federation (ICF) has announced that the Nantahala River located in North Carolina will host the 2020 ICF Wildwater World Championships, while the Cheat River in West Virginia will host the four World Cup Races. All races will take place from late April thru early May, 2020.

These venue selections mark the first Senior Wildwater World Championships held outside Europe since 1989, when the event was held on the Savage River in Maryland. Similarly, this is the first Wildwater World Cup held outside Europe since 2009.

The Nantahala River has a rich history in all aspects of whitewater sport, and also has had great success as a past host of the ICF Junior and U23 Wildwater World Championships in 2015 and the ICF Freestyle Canoeing World Championships in 2013. Their selection to host again in late April 2020 will continue their legacy of bringing high quality events to the Nantahala Gorge.

For the World Cup races, events will be hosted in collaboration with the Cheat River Festival in early May, organized by the Friends of the Cheat Organization. The races will contribute and bring attention to the celebration of recovery for the watershed, which suffered from devastating environmental disasters in the early 1990's.

**About the International Canoe Federation (ICF):** *The International Canoe Federation is responsible for the global sport of canoeing and has 162 affiliated National Associations and 10 disciplines - Sprint, Slalom, Paracanoe, Wildwater, Marathon, Canoe Polo, Freestyle, Ocean Racing, Dragon Boat and Canoe Sailing. Canoeing has two Olympic disciplines, with Sprint introduced at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games and Slalom at the Munich 1972 Olympic Games; Canoeing also made its debut at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games with Paracanoe. Find out more about the International Canoe Federation at [www.canoeicf.com](http://www.canoeicf.com)*

**About ACA:** *Founded in 1880, The American Canoe Association (ACA) is a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization serving the broader paddling public by providing education related to all aspects of paddling; stewardship support to help protect paddling environments; and sanctioning of programs and events to promote paddlesport competition, exploration, and recreation. The ACA is committed to developing and promoting paddlesport athletic competition at all levels, by serving as the National Governing Body (NGB) as approved by the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) and as the National Federation in the United States responsible to the International Canoe Federation (ICF). In order to maintain consistent rules and safety standards for competitive paddling events throughout the United States, the ACA also provides governance for several non-Olympic paddlesport disciplines through the Competition Council. Through an extensive network of local volunteers, and partnerships with other organizations, the ACA sanctions hundreds of races and produces numerous national championships each year. For more information, please visit [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org).*