

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION

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The Fisheries Administration, created by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972 combines the functions of the former Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs established by Chapter 82, Acts of 1964 and the Fish and Wildlife Administration created by Chapter 252, Acts of 1970. The former department superseded the Department of Tidewater Fisheries established by Chapter 508, Acts of 1941, while the latter Administration succeeded the former Department of Game and Inland Fish established by Chapter 354, Acts of 1939. The Administration is responsible for the preservation, enhancement, development and use of all fishery resources in Maryland, both tidal and freshwater. The agency is directed by an Administrator appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

During the 1975 fiscal year, the Administration managed a commercial seafood resource with a dockside value of \$26.1 million. Production figures of individual species were: oysters, 2.4 million bushels with a value of \$16.8 million; crabs, 25.9 million pounds valued at \$5.1 million; clams, 6.4 million pounds valued at \$2.1 million; and finfish, 14.9 million pounds valued at \$2.1 million.

Part of the Administration's tidewater fishery management program included planting 6 million bushels of oyster shells for propagation purposes, transplanting seed oysters on 2,000 acres of public oyster bars, monitored blue crab movement to determine fluctuations in annual harvest, investigation of 50 instances of fish mortalities, an inventory of 106 one-mile stream sections in an anadromous fish study, and monitoring of striped bass reproduction and harvesting.

Its freshwater fishery management program included stocking Maryland ponds and streams with 770,000 finfish.

In addition, the administration produces over 320,000 freshwater trout, stocked from

Maryland's hatcheries. Extensive rehabilitation of the lakes, ponds and streams was carried on through chemical and mechanical means to provide better freshwater fishing (Natural Resources Article, secs. 1-208 to 10-1101; 1970 Repl. Vol., Art. 66C, secs. 112A-328).

Freshwater fishing licenses totalled 135,000.

Staff: 72.

WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION

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The Wildlife Administration, created by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972, is responsible for the maintenance of an abundant population of wildlife throughout the state. The Administrator is appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

Among its duties is the management of thirty-five wildlife areas, encompassing 102,-000 acres.

Recreational activities on state-owned and cooperative lands included hunting, fishing and crabbing, trapping, birdwatchings, field trials, dog training and hiking, nature study and appreciation.

In addition, the Administration evaluates public demands, wildlife population and harvest parameters, environmental factors and applies management techniques to insure sustained production for use.

The 1973 Session of the Maryland General Assembly approved a Non-Game Section to be added to the staff of the Wildlife Administration.

The Section is funded with general and special funds—approximately 90% general and 10% special.

Endangered species, song and insectivorous birds and other wildlife will be studied, managed and protected as the need arises and funds allow (Natural Resources Article, sec. 10-101).