

Legislation enacted in 1874 brought all forces afloat under the Commission of Fisheries and named the new unit the State Fishery Force. In 1922 the Force became a part of the former Conservation Department and was known as the Maryland Patrol and Inspection Fleet. In 1941 the Patrol Fleet was incorporated into the Department of Tidewater Fisheries and its name was changed to the Division of Inspection and Patrol. In 1960 the Force became a part of the Division of Law Enforcement of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries, and was renamed the Marine Police Division in 1962.

The Natural Resources Police Force enforces State laws and regulations pertaining to commercial and sport fishing, boating, waterways pollution, and wildlife conservation. It also conducts boating and hunting safety educational programs.

The Force operates the Natural Resources Police Academy at Matapoke, a central maintenance and supply facility, and an aviation unit to provide airborne surveillance and rescue services to the enforcement programs and other agencies of the Department of Natural Resources.

The Marine Division includes Headquarters, Communications, and Field Force Sections. Among its other duties, it recovers stolen or lost boats and stolen outboard motors, renders other water-oriented assistance to the boating public, including delivery of emergency messages, regatta patrols, towing disabled vessels into ports, removal of persons from water, first aid administration, ice breaking, searching for missing boats, fire fighting on boats, engine repairs, and refloating of boats from grounding on shoals.

The Inland Division of the Natural Resources Police Force is charged with the responsibility of enforcing all laws and regulations relative to the protection and preservation of wildlife and with the welfare and safety of the citizenry. It apprehends persons for violations of the fish, game, boating, and litter laws and regulations.

Inland Officers assist Wildlife Law Enforcement officials in contiguous states in the apprehension of game and fish violators, assist State and local police in the apprehension of felons, and search for persons reported as lost or missing. They also search for and recover drowning victims, relay emergency information to hunters and fishermen, render assistance to boaters, and recover drifting unmanned boats.

Thousands of people receive firearms training and hunter safety instruction during each year.

Units manned by this Division include patrol boats, runabouts, vehicles, and one twin-engine amphibian aircraft.

The Force inspects boats for conservation and boating violations. It also inspects seafood processing houses and trucks carrying seafood cargo. It makes arrests and issues warnings for violations of boating and conservation laws and provides transportation in conjunction with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to collect water and shellfish samples for the Seafood Program. The Force also investigates and records boating accidents and reports them to the U.S. Coast Guard.

FOREST SERVICE AND PARK SERVICE

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The Forest Service and the Park Service are administered under one director and work together closely to serve the forest management and recreational needs of the people of Maryland. The staff functions are combined yet the integrity of the two units is maintained.

The Forest Service, created by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972, succeeded the Department of Forests and Parks established by Chapter 508, Acts of 1941. The latter department superseded the Board of Forestry created by Chapter 294, Acts of 1906.

The basic mission of the Forest Service is to effectively manage the State's forests and trees while promoting their values for the benefit of people. The goal of the Service is to maintain and improve the economic, aesthetic, recreational, environmental, and social contribution of trees, forests, and forest-related resources to all citizens.

The Forest Service goal is achieved through three major activities—programs of Cooperative Forest Management, Resource Utilization, and the State Forest System.

Cooperative Forest Management (CFM) takes forest management expertise to the private landowners and the political subdivisions of the State. Forest fire prevention and control, forest insect and disease control, forest land management, forest watershed management, reforestation, and urban and community forestry represent the main thrust of the program. While such programs as fire prevention and control, reforestation, and the