

DEPARTMENT OF TIDEWATER FISHERIES

The Commission:

Chairman: Arthur H. Brice, 1955
John P. Tawes, 1957

A. S. Creighton, Assistant to the Chairman
John C. Widener, Engineer

J. R. E. Turpin, Seafood Auditor
Ralph C. Hammer, Shellfish Culturist

William W. Watson, Training and Public Relations
E. R. Leitner, Accountant

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The appointment of an Oyster Commission in 1884 and its subsequent report was the beginning of the State's concern with tidewater fisheries. In 1907, a more permanent agency was created to deal with this problem; it was known as the Shellfish Commission. The duties of this commission were assumed by the Conservation Commission in 1916 and its successor, the Conservation Department, founded in 1922. However, the scope of these two agencies included not only tidewater fish, but also game and inland fish. The Commission of Tidewater Fisheries and its affiliated Department were created in 1941 as part of the Board of Natural Resources. The Chairman of the Commission and the two associate members are appointed by the Governor for a term of six years with overlapping tenure of office. The Commission formulates the basic policy which is administered by the Department of Tidewater Fisheries. The Commission also has power to make regulations governing the crab fisheries and to enter into compact with the State of Virginia in this regard, subject to review and approval by the Board of Natural Resources. The Department is administering a three-part program for the conservation of the fisheries. The first is concerned with "farming" for the purpose of conserving and increasing the oyster. The second is a fish management program which limits the number of commercial licenses issued each year for the taking of fin-fish. The third is a program of interstate cooperation which is concerned primarily with the crabbing industry. In addition, each of these: crabbing, fin-fishing, and oyster-ing is subject to certain regulatory restrictions. To enforce these regulations, the Department maintains a fleet of thirty-four patrol boats and one patrol plane (Code 1947, Art. 19A, secs. 5-10).

Advisory Committee to the Commission
on Tidewater Fisheries

Chairman: Charles R. Renn

John A. Cochran, Samuel W. Snitzer, William Mason
Shehan, William Woodfield, Edgar H. Langral, G. F. Beaven.

The Advisory Committee to the Commission on Tidewater Fisheries was appointed by the Governor in 1951. It is the purpose of the committee to advise and consult with the Commission on Tidewater Fisheries in formulating the policies for the development of the resources of the Chesapeake Bay and in the administration of the fisheries program.

	Expenditures 1950	Appropriation 1951
General fund	\$580,795.07	\$594,412.00
Special fund	30,101.92	
Total	\$610,896.99	\$594,412.00