

Appropriations	1967	1968
General Funds	\$105,674	\$85,250
Staff, 1967: 7; Staff, 1968: 8.		

DEPARTMENT OF CHESAPEAKE BAY AFFAIRS

The Commission

Chairman: Dr. Harry C. Byrd, 1968

Jeremiah Valliant, 1968; Albert I. Baker, 1969; Richard E. Lankford, 1970; Lawrence O. Hayden, 1971.

The Department

Joseph H. Manning, Director

Louis N. Phipps, Jr., Deputy Director

Edward S. Digges, Special Assistant Attorney General

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The Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs, established by Chapter 82, Acts of 1964, superseded the Department of Tidewater Fisheries, created by Chapter 508, Acts of 1941. In creating the new Department, the General Assembly stated its intention to confer upon it the authority and responsibility for the "planning, development, management, and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay and all other tidal waters and the shorelines and bottoms thereof." Specific responsibilities include water-oriented recreation development, shore erosion control, waterways improvement and maintenance, and the issuing of permits for the mineral exploration and exploitation of the Chesapeake Bay bottoms.

The Commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Senate for four-year terms. Two of the members must reside on the Eastern Shore, two represent the Western Shore, and one must reside in either Charles, Calvert, or St. Mary's counties. The Commission elects its Chairman annually, subject to the approval of the Governor.

The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Director, considers the need for resource development from the points of view of the economic and social interests of the citizens of the State, approves long-range plans and programs of the Department, and reviews the annual budget request. The Commission exercises regulatory authority as conferred upon the Department by Articles 14B (State Boat Act) and 66C (Natural Resources).

The Director is appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The present Director is under the merit system. His successor will serve at the pleasure of the Governor. As the administrative head of the Department, the Director is responsible for the exercise of all the powers and duties conferred upon the Department. He serves as a member of the Board of Natural Resources and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The Department has made substantial progress in restoring the productivity of the commercial fisheries in Maryland. Oyster production has increased from an all-time low of 1,243,497 bushels in the 1962-1963 season to a modern high of 3,014,670 bushels during the 1966-1967 season, as a result of vastly increased production of seed oysters by the State. Maryland now produces more than seventy-five percent of the entire U. S. catch of soft shell clams. The State leads the nation in the production of striped bass (rockfish) and is second only to Virginia in the production of blue crabs. The landed value of Maryland's fishery products rose from \$11,729,000 in 1964