

and is the final body of the Department to hear and act on appeals. Finally, the Board makes recommendations regarding the operation and administration of the Department of Natural Resources (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 41, secs. 236-237).

Staff: 14.

DEPARTMENT OF CHESAPEAKE BAY AFFAIRS

The Commission

Chairman: Richard E. Lankford, 1974
W. Hopkins Fisher, 1972; Roy E. Julie, 1972; Albert I. Baker, 1973; John T. Parran, Jr., 1975.

The Department

Louis N. Phipps, Jr., Director
John R. Capper, Deputy Director
Edward S. Digges, Special Assistant Attorney General
R. M. Hutchins, Jr., Chief, Waterways Improvements
Lester A. Levine, Chief, Wetlands
William B. Matthews, Jr., Chief of Boating
Edgar V. Mohl, Chief, Shore Erosion
William A. Perry, Chief, Information—Sport Fishing
Alexander V. Sandusky, Chief, Recreational Improvements

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The Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs, established by Chapter 82, Acts of 1964, superseded the Department of Tidewater Fisheries, created by Chapter 508, Acts of 1941.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, waterways improvement and maintenance, shore erosion control, and wetlands and shoreline management.

The Commission consists of five members appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources for four-year terms. Representation is on a geographical basis. The Commission elects its Chairman annually, subject to the approval of the Secretary.

The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Director, considers the need for further resource development in the Chesapeake Bay and other tidal waters of the State from the points of view of the economic and social interests of the citizens of the State, and recommends to the Director long-range plans and programs, advises the Director with respect to rules and regulations which the Director shall promulgate pursuant to the authority granted by the laws of Maryland, reviews the annual budget, and acts to foster public awareness and understanding of the objectives and functions of the Department.

The Director's duties are to direct Departmental operations and activities, and he is responsible for the exercise of all the powers and duties conferred upon the Department.

As Chesapeake Bay continues to attract increasing numbers of boatmen, the Department has developed programs which emphasize the safe and enjoyable use of Maryland waters. There are now over 68,700 boats in the State registered by the Boating Division. The Waterways Improvement Fund created by Chapter 746, Acts of 1965 specifically provides for a fund to be used for the marking with navigational aids of Maryland's waterways, the dredging of channels