

Waterways Improvement projects involve dredging and marking of harbors and channels, clearing debris, aquatic vegetation and other obstructions; and construction of marine facilities. Projects have been completed in eighteen counties including dredging operations, repair and construction of public boat ramps, piers, wharves and bulkheads. Nine fishing reefs have been created in bay waters. Other projects include parking areas, service roads, comfort stations, pilings, marine renovation and debris removal. The Department has established 157 aids to navigation such as channel markers, buoys and beacons.

The Capital Programs Administration has accelerated Program Open Space at both State and local levels. It has encumbered during the 1972 fiscal year a total of \$9,445,629 for purchase of lands for parks, wildlife areas, forests, natural environment areas and fish management regions.

The sum encumbered for the 1973 fiscal year is two million dollars more than was encumbered during the first three years of the Open Space Program.

Planning projects include the completion and publication of nine master plans. Six additional master plans are complete, but are as yet unpublished. Nine master plans are being prepared, while sixteen master plans have not been developed. In eight instances, no plans are required since the areas exist and are developed, and 8 other sites will require plans prior to initial development or expansion.

Appropriations	1973	1974
General Funds	\$1,531,396	\$1,647,105
Special Funds	2,219,046	810,393
Federal Funds	11,215	11,537
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Total	\$3,761,657	\$2,469,035

Staff: 1973, 86; Staff: 1974, 89.

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 The former department superseded the Department of Tidewater Fisheries established by Chapter 508, Acts of 1941, while the latter Administration succeeded the former Department of Game and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 new 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 1972 fiscal year, the Administration managed a commercial seafood resource with a dockside value of \$23.4 million. Production figures of individual species were: oysters, 3.1 million bushels with a value of \$15.5 million; crabs, 23.9 million pounds valued at \$3.9 million; clams, 9.3 million pounds valued at \$2.3 million; and finfish, 15 million pounds valued at \$1.7 million.

Part of the Administration's tidewater fishery management program included planting 6.8 million bushels of oyster shells for propagation purposes, transplanting seed oysters on 2,109 acres of public oyster