

Appropriations	1973	1974
General Funds	<u> </u>	\$ 19,981
Special Funds	\$ 946,676	713,914
Federal Funds	361,902	<u>547,170</u>
Total	<u>\$1,308,578</u>	<u>\$1,281,065</u>

NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE FORCE

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This agency, created by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972, traces its beginnings to the establishment of the State Oyster Police Force in 1868 for the enforcement of the oyster laws of the State. 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, 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. Also, it conducts boating and hunting safety educational programs.

Activities also include the operation of the Natural Resources Police Academy at Matapeake, operation of a central maintenance and supply facility, operation of an aviation unit to provide airborne surveillance and rescue services to the enforcement programs and other agencies of the Department of Natural Resources.

The 125-man Marine Division includes Headquarters, Communications, and Field Force Sections.

Also, it recovered or assisted in the recovery of the bodies of 35 drowning victims, recovered 60 stolen or lost boats and 26 stolen outboard motors, rendered 1018 other water-oriented assists to the boating public, including delivery of emergency messages, regatta patrols, tow into port disabled vessels, removal of persons from water, first aid administration, ice breaking, search for missing boats, fire fighting on boats, engine repairs, 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. During the 1972 fiscal year, it apprehended 1,473 persons for violations of the fish, game, boating and litter laws and regulations.

During the year Wildlife Officers rendered assistance to Wildlife Law Enforcement officials in contiguous states in the apprehension of game and fish violators, assisted state and local police in the apprehension of felons, and searched for persons reported as lost or missing. They also searched for and recovered drowning victims, relayed emergency information to hunters and fishermen, and rendered assistance to boaters and recovered drifting un-manned boats. A total of 519 man-days were spent training Inland Division Officers in basic police