

system by which seafood is harvested from Chesapeake Bay and other Maryland waters continually, the method of harvesting and their eventual delivery to the ultimate consumer. The purpose is to develop better methods or techniques which will reduce the cost, improve the quality and expand the market and profitability of the industry as well as increase employment and improve the quality of the area (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 41, sec. 257-I).

### DIVISION OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT

John J. Nelson, Director

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The Division of Tourist Development was created by Chapter 527 of the Acts of 1970 as the Division of Tourism: It adopted its present name in 1973. The aim and objective of the Division is to increase Maryland's share of domestic and foreign travel business in order for the state to derive the fullest economic, social and cultural benefits that tourism generates.

The primary function of the Division is to advertise, publicize and otherwise promote Maryland's historic, scenic and recreational attractions and foster the development of new tourism facilities and services, as well as the expansion and improvement of existing ones. The Division also maintains close liaison with the counties and municipalities in the State in developing tourism programs. It also works closely with the travel industry. The Division cooperates with the United States Travel Services, the Discover America Travel Organizations, Inc., the American Society of Travel Agents and others concerned with the promotion of tourism, as well as the convention and sales meeting business (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 41, sec. 257-E-h).

### OCEAN CITY CONVENTION HALL COMMISSION

Chairman: J. Marshall Stewart, 1978

Charles F. Haugh, Jr. 1974; Albert Berger, 1975; John Dale Showell III, 1976; J. Warren Frame, 1977.

Consultants: Russell O. Hickman, Member of the House of Delegates from Worcester County; Louis L. Goldstein, Comptroller of the Treasury; Harry W. Kelley, Mayor of Ocean City.

Earl G. Baird, Executive Director

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The Ocean City Convention Hall Commission was created by Chapter 646, Acts of 1967. The Commission consists of five members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor for five-year terms. The Governor selects the Chairman. At least two of the members of the Commission must be residents or property owners within the corporate limits of Ocean City.

The Ocean City Convention Hall is operated for housing religious, business and professional conventions, cultural events, industrial exhibits, trade shows, and other events which might stimulate the tourist trade and economy of the State. The Convention Hall has officially been open for a period of seventeen months. It has been most successful in attaining its original intent and purpose.

The Commission must submit a report annually to the Board of Public Works and the Mayor and Council of Ocean City (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 41, secs. 405-406).