

The MES corporation is governed by a three-member Board of Directors consisting of a Director, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who are appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources with the approval of the Governor. As a public utility enterprise, the Service may plan, finance, construct, operate, and maintain liquid and solid waste management systems and water supply facilities. The Service is a nationally-recognized leader in the field of resource recovery.

In 1980, MES operated over 100 water, wastewater, and solid waste management projects throughout the State with a combined operating budget in excess of \$14 million (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 3-101 through 3-132).

TIDEWATER ADMINISTRATION

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The Tidewater Administration was created by Chapter 601, Acts of 1979. The agency combined Tidal Fisheries, Coastal Zone Management, and Waterway Improvement into one organizational unit.

Waterway Improvement was created under Chapter 348 of the Acts of 1972, the State Boat Act, and provides services to the general boating public, including placement and maintenance of navigational aids, clearing of debris and obstructions from waters of the State, removal of derelict vessels, ice breaking, dredging, and the construction of regional boating facilities and local small-boat launching ramps, piers, and ancillary facilities.

The Tidal Fisheries Administration carries out the operational functions of the former Fisheries Administration, created by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972. The Tidal Fisheries Division is responsible for the preservation, enhancement, development, and use of all tidal fishery resources in Maryland. Recent economic estimates indicate that the Maryland sport fishery in tidewater expends approximately 20 million dollars annually in direct costs, exclusive of boats, motors, and tackle. Commercial fisheries of shellfish and finfish in 1978 had a dockside value of approximately \$35 million. The fishery management program includes planting multi-million bushels of oyster shells for propagation purposes, transplanting seed oysters on public oyster bars, monitoring blue crab movement to determine fluctuations in

annual harvest, investigation of fish mortalities, an annual juvenile recruitment survey to index reproductive success, monitoring anadromous fish reproduction and harvesting, support of striped bass hatcheries for research and release, environmental review of permit applications, disease and parasite investigations, resurveying the Bay bottom, and obtaining statistics needed for management decisions.

The Coastal Zone Management Program has been transferred from the Energy and Coastal Zone Administration to the Tidewater Administration. The Governor in March 1973 designated the Department of Natural Resources as the agency authorized to receive and administer federal grants pursuant to the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. In May 1978 the Governor signed an Executive Order stating that the Coastal Zone Management Program constitutes State policy with regard to activities in Maryland's coastal areas. The Program draws on the authority, expertise, and perspective of six State Departments (Economic and Community Development, State Planning, Natural Resources, Transportation, Health and Mental Hygiene, and Agriculture), sixteen coastal counties and Baltimore City, and numerous federal agencies. The Division is charged with administration of the Program, including a \$1.6 million dollar grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It has the primary function of coordinating among the many Program participants, ensuring that all State and federal actions are consistent with the State's coastal resources policy, providing technical and financial assistance to local governments and State agencies, and improving the quality and extent of coastal decision-making information.

WATER RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

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The Water Resources Administration, formerly the Department of Water Resources, was created by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972. The agency is concerned with the protection, enhancement, and management of the water resources of the State.

As of July 1, 1980, Executive Order 01.01.1980.04 as amended by Chapter 815 of the Acts of 1980 transferred certain water pollution control programs to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.