

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 Program was created under Chapter 348 of the Acts of 1972, the State Boat Act. It 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 Division 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 fin-fish in 1981 had a dockside value of approximately \$56 million. The fishery management program includes planting multi-million bushels of oyster shells for propagation purposes, transplanting seed oysters on public oyster bars, and monitoring blue crab movement to determine fluctuations in annual harvest. The program involves 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, as well as 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 was transferred from the former 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 is based upon the authorities, expertise, and perspectives 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 Coastal Resources Division administers the Program with a \$1.2 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Its primary function is to coordinate 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.

The Tidewater Administration is served by the following advisory committees:

ANADROMOUS FISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

William P. Jensen, *Chairperson*

(Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 1-102(d), 1-105.)

BOAT ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Edwin J. Wolf, *Chairperson*

(Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 8-701 through 8-727.)

CLAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 4-1032.)

COASTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Matthew E. Creamer, *Chairperson*

(Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 1-102(d).)

ESTUARINE SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Scott Brumbaugh, *Chairperson*

(Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 1-102(d).)

STATEWIDE OYSTER DREDGERS COMMITTEE

(Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 4-1106.)

STATEWIDE OYSTER TONGERS COMMITTEE

(Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 4-1106.)