

Tim Carney, *Allegany County*, 1985; June Neder, *Allegany County*, 1985; John E. Carey, *mining industry*, 1987; James M. Coffroth, *mining industry*, 1987; Frances Pope, *Garrett County*, 1987; Hugh B. Trimble, *Garrett County*, 1987.

Craig Hartsock, *Allegany County Soil Conservation District*; Shaun Sanders, *Garrett County Soil Conservation District*; Edward J. Golden, Stephen Layton, Paul Mateer, *Department of Natural Resources*; Robert V. Creter, *Department of Health and Mental Hygiene*.

Executive Secretary: Anthony F. Abar

c/o Bureau of Mines
69 Hill Street
Frostburg 21532 Telephone: 689-4136

The Land Reclamation Committee, originally established by Chapter 144, Acts of 1967, had its functions expanded in 1969, 1973, and 1982. The Committee studies, recommends, and approves procedures for reclamation, conservation, and revegetation of areas affected by open-pit mining within the State. The Committee also reviews all mining and reclamation plans, progress reports, and final reports. It establishes plans and methods of procedure, as well as practical guidelines, for the prompt and adequate reclamation, conservation, and revegetation of all lands disturbed by open-pit mining of bituminous coal within the State.

The Committee consists of thirteen members. Four members of the Department of Natural Resources, including a chairperson of the Committee, are appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources. One member represents the Allegany County soil conservation district, and one the Garrett County soil conservation district. Two members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for three-year terms to represent the mining industry. The Planning and Zoning Commissions of Allegany and Garrett Counties are each represented by a member who serves a three-year term. The Secretary of Natural Resources appoints for three-year terms two members from the community who do not have an interest in any mining operation. One of these must reside in Allegany County and the other in Garrett County. One member of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 7-205, 7-501 through 7-505, 7-509, 7-510, 7-515).

NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE FORCE

Roy W. Rafter, *Superintendent*

Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis 21401 Telephone: 269-2247/3181

Created by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972, the Natural Resources Police Force traces its beginnings to 1868, when the State Oyster Police Force was formed to enforce 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 Conservation Department and was known as the Maryland Patrol and Inspection Fleet. This provided the foundation for the present-day marine enforcement activity of the Natural Resources Police Force.

From a wildlife and inland fisheries standpoint, the creation of the post of State Game Warden in 1896 was the benchmark for a system that would bring greater uniformity to the enforcement of conservation laws across the State. Following the appointment of a State Game Warden, government programs began that are responsible for today's inland enforcement activity of the Natural Resources Police. In 1922 the post of State Game Warden became a part of the Conservation Department along with the State Fishery Force (renamed the Maryland Patrol and Inspection Fleet). In 1939, the Conservation Department was split into two separate departments: the Department of Tidewater Fisheries, and the Game and Inland Fish Commission (later the Department of Game and Inland Fish). The Marine Enforcement Fleet was then named the Division of Inspection and Patrol, and later renamed the Maryland State Marine Police in 1962 as the agency widened its responsibilities to include enforcement of the Maryland Boat Act of 1960. Following the abolishment of the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs and the Department of Game and Inland Fish, the Natural Resources Police Force was created in 1972.

The Natural Resources Police Force enforces State laws and regulations pertaining to commercial seafood harvesting and sport fishing, boating, waterways pollution, and wildlife conservation. It also conducts boating and firearms training and hunting safety educational programs.

The Force inspects boats for conservation and boating violations. It also inspects seafood processing houses and trucks carrying seafood cargo. It arrests and issues warnings to violators of boating