

and conservation laws. The Force also investigates boating accidents and reports them to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Through enforcement of hunting and wildlife conservation laws, the Force provides the primary law enforcement service for a number of remote areas in the State, as well as emergency services when required. The Force is also the primary search and rescue agency on the waters of the State.

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

TIDEWATER ADMINISTRATION

Lee E. Zeni, *Administrator*

Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis 21401 Telephone: 269-2926

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.

The *Waterway Improvement Program* was created by the State Boat Act (Chapter 348, Acts of 1972). The Program serves the general boating public. It places and maintains navigational aids, clears debris and obstructions from waters of the State, removes derelict vessels, engages in ice breaking and dredging, and constructs regional boating facilities and local small-boat launching ramps, piers, and ancillary facilities.

The *Fisheries Division* carries out duties of the former Fisheries Administration, created by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972. The Division is responsible for the preservation, enhancement, development, and use of all fishery resources in Maryland. Its fishery management program includes planting 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 survey of young fish to determine reproductive success, monitoring anadromous fish reproduction and harvesting, support of striped bass hatcheries for research and release, pond and reservoir fishery development, as well as environmental review of permit applications, disease and parasite investigations, resurveying the Bay bottom, and obtaining

statistics needed for management decisions. The Division strives to provide the greatest amount of public trout fishing within existing habitat while trying to preserve, enhance, and improve the natural trout resources within the State.

In 1984, the General Assembly authorized the Department to begin an "Adopt a Rockfish" Program (Chapter 687, Acts of 1984). Under this program, any person may "adopt" a rockfish by paying \$5.00 to the Department. This "adoption" entitles the person to a certificate of appreciation for helping to save the rockfish, the State fish. Revenues received are used to manage striped bass and inform the public of the importance of ecological management techniques.

The *Coastal Zone Management Program* was transferred from the former Energy and Coastal Zone Administration to the Tidewater Administration. In 1973, the Governor 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 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 laws, regulations, authorities, expertise, and perspectives of six State Departments (Agriculture, Economic and Community Development, Health and Mental Hygiene, Natural Resources, State Planning, Transportation), sixteen coastal counties and Baltimore City, two regional planning agencies, and numerous federal agencies. The Coastal Resources Division administers the Program with grants 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, improving the quality and extent of coastal decision-making information, and providing for a balance in the management of the State's coastal resources.

The Tidewater Administration is served by the following advisory committees:

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)