

of the agency placed the functions of Tidal Fisheries, Coastal Zone Management, and Waterway Improvement under one Administration.

## WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT DIVISION

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

## FISHERIES DIVISION

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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.

The Division's 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 annual surveys of young fish to determine reproductive success, monitoring anadromous fish reproduction and harvests, support of striped bass hatcheries for research and release, and pond and reservoir fishery development. The Program also includes environmental review of permit applications, disease and parasite investigations, development and analysis of statistics needed for management decisions, and formulation of management plans. The Division strives to provide the greatest amount of public trout fishing within existing habitat while trying to preserve, enhance, and improve 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 Watermen's Compensation Program is conducted by the Division. Recommended by the Task Force to Develop a Watermen's Compensation Program, the Program provides funding to supplement commercial fishermen and charter boat captains' income diminished by the moratorium on fishing for rockfish. Under the Program, commercial fishermen are compensated for participating in field surveys and finfish enhancement projects under Division direction.

The Division is also responsible for the "Catch a Fortune" Contest. For this contest, sport fish, worth substantial prizes, are tagged and released to stimulate interest in sport fishing for species other than rockfish.

## COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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The Coastal Resources Division administers the Coastal Zone Management Program. 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, by Executive Order, stated 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, Health and Mental Hygiene, Housing and Community Development, 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 Coastal Zone Management Program with grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Division's 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. The Division provides technical and financial assistance to local governments and State agencies,