

By 1868, the State Oyster Police Force was created to enforce oyster laws. The Governor, Treasurer, Comptroller, Superintendent of Labor and Agriculture, and Clerk of the Court of Appeals were constituted the Commissioners of the State Oyster Police to oversee the Force. Reorganized as the State Fishery Force in 1874, it was placed under the Commissioner of Fisheries and, in 1880, under the Board of Public Works. The Force constituted the "Maryland Navy" in the Bay oyster wars fought between Maryland and Virginia watermen at the end of the century. By 1886, the State Fishery Force also was assigned conservation duties, buying oyster shells to be planted or sown in the Bay "for the purpose of catching spat and experimenting in the propagation of oysters" (Chapter 314, Acts of 1886). In 1892, county commissioners were authorized "in their discretion" to supplement the Force with boats and officers at county expense (Chapter 643, Acts of 1892).

Yet, the earliest origins of the Department of Natural Resources trace to geological and mapping functions of the first State Geological Survey, which operated from 1834 to 1841. In 1896, the State Geological and Economic Survey was formed (Chapter 51, Acts of 1896). That same year, the State Game Warden's Office was created (Chapter 293, Acts of 1896). State programs for woodlands were initiated ten years later, when the State Board of Forestry was established (Chapter 294, Acts of 1906).

The State Fishery Force, the State Game Warden, and the Engineer became part of the newly formed Conservation Commission in 1916 (Chapter 682, Acts of 1916). The Commission was charged with oversight of oysters, clams, fish, crabs, terrapin, wild fowl, birds, game, and fur-bearing animals. In 1935, the Conservation Department was formed, governed by the Conservation Commission (Chapter 523, Acts of 1935).

Conservation agencies were reorganized in 1941. The Board of Natural Resources oversaw five departments: the Department of Tidewater Fisheries; the Department of Game and Inland Fish; the Department of State Forests and Parks; the Department of Geology, Mines, and Water Resources; and the Department of Research and Education (Chapter 508, Acts of 1941). These agencies were consolidated to form the Department of Natural Resources in 1969 (Chapter 154, Acts of 1969).

The Department is responsible for the Maryland membership units of ten interstate bodies: the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Coastal States Organization, Interstate Mining Commission, Ohio River Basin Commission, Interstate Oil Compact Commission, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, Potomac River Basin Advisory Committee, Potomac River Fisheries Commission, Southern States Energy Board, and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 1-101 through 1-104).

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Torrey C. Brown, M.D., *Secretary of
Natural Resources*

Tawes State Office Building, C-4
580 Taylor Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 974-3041

The Secretary of Natural Resources heads the Department. The Secretary is appointed by the Governor with Senate advice and consent.

The Secretary serves on the Governor's Executive Council; the Governor's Subcabinet for Energy Management; the Governor's Council on the Chesapeake Bay; the Governor's Construction Industry Employers' Advisory Council; the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission; the Governor's Pesticide Council; the Chesapeake Bay Trust; the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee for Minority Affairs; the State Soil Conservation Committee; the Scenic and Wild Rivers Review Board; and the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

Under the Secretary is a deputy secretary and three assistant secretariats. There is one assistant secretary each for Management Services, Public

Lands and Forestry, and Resource Management. Under direct supervision of the Office of the Secretary is the Chesapeake Bay Program Office.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM OFFICE

Verna E. Harrison, *Director*
(410) 974-2255

The Chesapeake Bay Program Office was created in 1988. The Director is responsible for the Department's relations with citizens groups and the Governor's staff concerning the Chesapeake Bay Program. The Director also is responsible for budgetary matters related to the Program.

The Chesapeake Bay Program is the unique regional, federal-state-local partnership that directs and conducts restoration of Chesapeake Bay. Signatories to the Chesapeake Bay Agreements of 1983 and 1987 have made the commitment to restore and protect the Bay by improving its water quality and living resources. These signatories, or partners, are Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.