

TIDAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

Robert P. Eurice, *Chairperson*, 1994

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 (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 1-102, 4-204).

COASTAL & WATERSHED RESOURCES
DIVISION

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Origins of the Coastal and Watershed Resources Division stem from the Coastal Zone Management Program which began in 1973 when the Governor designated the Department of Natural Resources to receive and administer federal grants pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. The Program was assigned first to the Water Resources Administration and, by 1977, transferred to the Energy and Coastal Zone Administration. By Executive Order in 1978, the Governor declared the Coastal Zone Management Program to be State policy for activities in Maryland coastal areas. In 1979, the Program became part of the Tidewater Administration (Chapter 601, Acts of 1979). Within the Administration, the Program was overseen by the Coastal Resources Division, which merged with the Watershed and Growth Management Division to form the Coastal and Watershed Resources Division in 1992.

The Division is composed of seven major programs: Coastal Zone Management; Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve System—Maryland; Targeted Watersheds; Watershed Impact Evaluation; Natural Resource Impact Assessment; Special Projects; and Public Involvement.

The Division administers the *Coastal Zone Management Program* with grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 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, Budget and Fiscal Planning, and Transportation); sixteen coastal counties and Baltimore City; two regional planning agencies; and numerous federal agencies.

The *Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve System—Maryland* was created in accordance with the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. The System protects representative estuarine systems, including valuable wetland habitat, for use as natural field laboratories. The System maintains three reserves on Chesapeake Bay: Otter Point Creek Component, Harford County; Monie Bay Component, Somerset County; and Jug Bay Component, Anne Arundel County. Each reserve is a field laboratory supporting several monitoring, research and educational programs.

Through the *Targeted Watersheds Program*, the Division studies the impact of land use on watersheds and their streams and aquatic resources, and how to mitigate adverse effects by controlling sources of pollution.

The *Watershed Impact Evaluation Program* sets standards for documenting the cumulative impact of different types, densities, and patterns of land use on watersheds and their streams and rivers. The Program relates land use and development to effects on stream ecosystems. For local jurisdictions, the Program devises methodologies, models, and information to reduce the impact of land uses on aquatic life.

The *Natural Resource Impact Assessment Program* develops management techniques to guide growth and development by minimizing ecological impacts, particularly on aquatic life. The Program helps implement the Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Act (Chapter 437, Acts of 1992).

Special Projects, formerly the Mapping and Data Analysis Program, uses geographic information systems to evaluate the effects of growth on Maryland watersheds.

The *Public Involvement Program* seeks help from civic and community associations, environmental groups, businesses, and local governments to protect and restore watersheds.

CHESAPEAKE BAY RESEARCH &
MONITORING DIVISION

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Within the Tidewater Administration, the Chesapeake Bay Research and Monitoring Division was formed by the Department in 1988. The Division consolidates scientific programs of the Tidewater Administration in the areas of ecological habitat impacts; biological assessments; aquatic toxicology; database management; nonindigenous aquatic species control; acid deposition; power plant topical research; and the status investigations of shellfish disease and oyster population carried out at the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory. This consolidation reflects the importance of the Chesapeake Bay Program as a vehicle for producing long-term, far-reaching changes to protect and restore the Bay's living resources.

The Division is served by the Acid Deposition Advisory Committee, the Science Advisory Board, and the Board of Visitors of the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory.

ACID DEPOSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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At the request of the Chesapeake Bay Research and Monitoring Division and the Power Plant and Environmental Review Division, the Acid Deposition Advisory Committee reviews and comments