

vessels. The Program also undertakes ice breaking and dredging, and constructs regional boating facilities and local small-boat launching ramps, piers, and ancillary facilities.

#### PLANNING & POLICY PROGRAM

Bess Crandall, *Director*  
(410) 974-2939

The Planning and Policy Program plans for the use of Maryland's waterways and the location of marine-related facilities. The Program also serves as liaison with the boating industry.

#### SHORE EROSION CONTROL PROGRAM

Leonard M. Larese-Casanova, *Director*  
(410) 974-3727

The Shore Erosion Control Program began in 1975 and functioned as a distinct unit by 1979 (Chapter 360, Acts of 1975). The Program provides technical assistance to property owners, communities, and counties experiencing shore erosion. The Program administers the Shore Erosion Control Revolving Loan Fund, which provides interest-free loans for project designs and construction to qualified applicants. Matching grants are available for nonstructural (vegetative) projects to control shore erosion. It also provides construction supervision for State-financed projects. The Program evaluates new materials and methods for erosion control, and informs the public about causes and prevention of shore and bank erosion. The Program assesses and makes recommendations on erosion in Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 8-1001 through 8-1007).

#### OCEAN CITY BEACH REPLENISHMENT & HURRICANE PROTECTION PROJECT

Leonard M. Larese-Casanova, *Director*  
(410) 974-3727

The Ocean City Beach Replenishment and Hurricane Protection Project provides storm protection to Ocean City and maintains the recreation beach used by some 4 million visitors annually. The Project was constructed in two phases. Phase I established a wide, gradually rising beach and level berm area. It was completed in September 1988 and funded by State government, Ocean City, and Worcester County. Phase II included 1.8 miles of steel bulkhead protecting the boardwalk and 7 miles of dunes and berm to provide hurricane protection up to the Delaware boundary line. It was jointly funded by the State, Ocean City, Worcester County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

State funding for Phase I, Phase II, and continued maintenance of the Project comes from the Ocean Beach Replenishment Fund, established in 1986 (Chapter 606, Acts of 1986). The beach is to

be replenished every four years to retain its 100-year storm protection level and ensure federal involvement in case of a major catastrophe.

---

#### NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE FORCE

---

Col. Franklin I. Wood, *Superintendent*  
Lt. Col. C. T. Howes, *Deputy Superintendent*

Tawes State Office Building, C-3  
580 Taylor Ave.  
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 974-3170

As Maryland's oldest State law enforcement agency and one of the oldest conservation law enforcement agencies in the country, the Natural Resources Police Force traces its origins to 1868, when the State Oyster Police Force was created to enforce oyster laws. As the State Fishery Force, it was reorganized in 1874 under the Commissioner of Fisheries and, in 1880, under the Board of Public Works. In 1922, the Force became part of the newly formed Conservation Department and was renamed Maryland Patrol and Inspection Fleet. Marine enforcement by the Natural Resources Police Force originated from responsibilities of the early fisheries fleets.

For wildlife and inland fisheries, the creation of the post of State Game Warden in 1896 provided a system for uniformly enforcing conservation laws across the State. After the appointment of a State Game Warden, government programs were initiated that still define the inland enforcement duties of the Natural Resources Police Force. 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 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 then was named the Division of Inspection and Patrol. Responsible for enforcing the Maryland Boat Act of 1960, it became the Maryland State Marine Police in 1962. After the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs and the Department of Game and Inland Fish were abolished, the Natural Resources Police Force was created in 1972 within the Department of Natural Resources (Chapter 348, Acts of 1972).

The Natural Resources Police Force has full police powers throughout the State. The Force is responsible for preserving the peace, preventing crime, detecting and apprehending criminals, and safeguarding individual rights.

The Force protects life and property, and serves as the primary search and rescue agency on Maryland waters and in rural areas of the State. Through enforce-