

WESTERN REGION
 Donald Rohrbach, *Regional
 Manager* (410) 777-2136

HERITAGE & BIODIVERSITY
 CONSERVATION PROGRAMS
 Michael E. Slattery, *Associate Director*
 (410) 974-2870

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP
 Vacancy, *Chief* . . . (410) 974-2870

RESEARCH INVENTORY
 & MONITORING
 Vacancy, *Chief* . . . (410) 974-2870

RESOURCE SYSTEMS
 Vacancy, *Chief* . . . (410) 974-2870

LICENSING & REGISTRATION SERVICE
 (KA06, formerly 30.01.06)
 FY1996 appropriation \$4,065,376
 FY1996 authorized positions 63
 Bruce A. Gilmore, *Director* . . . (410) 974-5623

BOAT DEALER ADVISORY COUNCIL
 (appointed by Secretary of Natural
 Resources)
 Contact: Bruce A. Gilmore
 (410) 974-5623
 Louis Phipps, Jr., *Chair*

BOAT ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 (appointed by Secretary of Natural
 Resources)
 Contact: Bruce A. Gilmore
 (410) 974-5623
 Frank Webb, *Chair*

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
 Norine Ripple (410) 974-3267

PUBLIC SERVICES
 Gladys J. Downs (410) 974-5623

TECHNICAL SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT
 Anedra Knight (410) 974-3214

ANNAPOLIS SERVICE CENTER
 Jean Ashman, *Manager* . . . (410) 974-3211

BEL AIR SERVICE CENTER
 Margaret Sewell, *Manager* . . (410) 836-4550

CENTREVILLE SERVICE CENTER
 Dawn M. Thomas, *Manager* (410) 758-5252

CUMBERLAND SERVICE CENTER
 Carol Lease, *Manager* (301) 777-2134

PRINCE FREDERICK SERVICE CENTER
 Marilyn Ford, *Manager* . . . (301) 855-1748

SALISBURY SERVICE CENTER
 Sandra Jones, *Acting Manager*
 (410) 543-6900

ORIGIN & FUNCTIONS

Created in 1969, the Department of Natural Resources works to ensure the preservation, development, wise use, and enjoyment of Maryland's natural resources for the greatest benefit to the State and its citizens. The Department coordinates all natural resources activities within the State and reviews and evaluates all natural resources policies, plans, programs, and practices of county, State, regional and federal agencies and institutions.

The natural resources of Maryland were described early. In 1634, Father Andrew White wrote of Chesapeake Bay as "the most delightful water I ever saw, between two sweet landes." Seventeenth-century settlers were impressed by woodlands, wildlife, and waters teeming with fish. When the abundance later ebbed, the General Assembly enacted a multitude of laws to protect natural resources, particularly those of Chesapeake Bay. Indeed, for the past two centuries, much of Maryland's concern with natural resources has focused on the Bay.

America's first formal interstate agreement concerned the Bay and other waters, boundaries, fisheries, and navigational rights. The Compact of 1785 between Maryland and Virginia set a precedent for negotiating interstate differences over Bay matters. The Compact was ratified by the Maryland Legislature in 1785 (Chapter 1, Acts of 1785).

Thereafter, in the nineteenth century, the General Assembly acted to safeguard Bay oysters, clams, and fish, and during the twentieth century, crabs. Inspectors of salted fish were appointed to improve the quality of exports (Chapter 114, Acts of 1817). Measurers of oysters were licensed to gauge the size of oysters in the shell and the tubs from which they were sold (Chapter 406, Acts of 1868). When New England watermen raided Chesapeake oyster beds in the early 1800s, the Legislature passed "An Act to prevent the destruction of Oysters in this State" and sounded the alarm that "well grounded apprehensions are entertained of the utter extinction of oysters in the state" (Chapter 24, Acts of 1820).

Fisheries also required protection. In 1820, the Legislature sought to stop vessels from anchoring in the fisheries of the Susquehanna River and at the head of Chesapeake Bay (Chapter 199, Acts of 1820). Following an address by conservation pioneer, Robert B. Roosevelt (uncle of Teddy Roosevelt), the General Assembly authorized commissioners to inspect and report on the "bay, marine and river fisheries of the State" (Chapter 297, Acts of 1870; Resolution 2, Acts of 1870).

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