

sources 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 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 Warden's appointment, government programs were initiated that still define the inland enforcement duties of the Natural Resources Police Force. In 1922, the State Game Warden joined the Conservation Department along with the State Fishery Force (renamed the Maryland Patrol and Inspection Fleet). In 1939, the Conservation Department 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 and was made part of the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs in 1964. That department and the Department of Game and Inland Fish were abolished in 1969 when the Department of Natural Resources was created. In 1972, the Maryland State Marine Police was renamed the Natural Resources Police Force (Chapter 348, Acts of 1972). From 1992 to 1995, the Force was part of Resource Management. Then, it came under Public Lands.

Throughout the State, the Natural Resources Police Force has full police powers. It protects life and property, preserves the peace, prevents crime, detects and apprehends criminals, and safeguards individual rights.

The Force serves as the primary search and rescue agency on Maryland waters and in rural areas of the State. Through enforcement of hunting and wildlife conservation laws, the Force provides the primary law enforcement and emergency services for some remote areas in Maryland.

The Force enforces State laws and regulations on boating, commercial seafood harvesting and sport fishing, waterways pollution, and wildlife conservation, as well as general criminal law enforcement. The Force inspects boats for violations of conservation and boating laws and inspects seafood processing houses and trucks carrying seafood cargo. It arrests and issues warnings to violators. The Force also investigates boating accidents and reports them to the U.S. Coast Guard. Maryland's three State vessels, the yacht *Maryland Independence*, the work boat *H. J. Elser*, and the skipjack *Anna McGarvey*, are operated and maintained by the Force.

Boating and hunting safety education programs are conducted by the Force. In addition, the Force operates the Natural Resources Police Academy at Matapeake, a central maintenance and supply facility, and an aviation unit to provide airborne surveillance and rescue services to enforcement programs and Department agencies (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 1-201 through 1-210).

The Force is organized into four bureaus: Administrative Services; Field Operations; Planning and Education; and Support Services.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

Kathy T. Lantz, *Chief*
(410) 974-2248

Formerly under the Boating Administration, the Administration Program was reorganized under the Natural Resources Police Force as the Administrative Services Bureau in 1995. The Bureau is responsible for budget, fiscal and personnel management; public information; and management information services. The Bureau also schedules the State yacht *Maryland Independence*.

FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

Capt. Tammy S. Broll, *Chief*
(410) 974-2248

The Field Operations Bureau primarily enforces wildlife, fish and boating laws, and conducts search and rescue missions. Its officers are cross-trained for assignment to either marine or inland patrols. They also routinely perform police duties involving criminal violations such as possession of controlled dangerous substances, theft, assault, fraud, manslaughter, and homicide. Operating out of four regional centers, the Bureau patrols with a fleet of 30 large inboard vessels, 89 smaller outboard vessels, and 100 vehicles.

PLANNING & EDUCATION BUREAU

Maj. Michael E. Howard, *Chief*
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Created in 1995, the Planning and Education Bureau educates the public about outdoor safety, ethics, and the use of resources. The Bureau issues certificates to hunters and boaters who complete safety education courses. By law, hunters must have a certificate before they can buy a hunting license. Also, any person born after July 1, 1972, must have a certificate to operate a registered or documented vessel. For Natural Resources Police officers, the Bureau provides specialized training, both entry-level and in-service. The Bureau also conducts research and develops long-range planning.

The Bureau works through the Planning and Development Section, and two divisions: Outdoor Education, and Training.