

Habitat; Land Management; and Outreach and Technical Services. The Division also is aided by several advisory bodies among which are the Captive Wildlife Advisory Committee; Fur Resources Advisory Committee; Migratory Waterfowl Advisory Committee; Wildlife Advisory Commission; and Wild Turkey Advisory Committee.

**MIGRATORY WATERFOWL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Ladd Johnson, *Chair*

Contact: Joshua L. Sandt (410) 974-3195

The Migratory Waterfowl Advisory Committee was formerly the Duck Release Program Advisory Committee. The Committee advises the Department on waterfowl habitat conservation; the propagation or purchase and distribution of mallard or other ducks to be released; and regulations for the duck release program.

Appointed by the Governor, the Committee consists of thirteen members (Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 10-308.1).

**WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Vacancy, *Chair*

Contact: Joshua L. Sandt (410) 974-3195

The Governor appoints the Wildlife Advisory Commission to advise the Wildlife Program and the Secretary of Natural Resources on wildlife matters. Members serve four-year terms (Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 1-102).

**HERITAGE & BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

Michael E. Slattery, *Associate Director*  
(410) 974-2870

Heritage and Biodiversity Conservation Programs began in 1979 as the Natural Heritage Program and received its current name in 1996. This office works to ensure that all Maryland's native ecosystems, natural communities, and species survive. It identifies significant natural areas of the

State and sets priorities for their protection. Staff biologists and botanists continuously update a computerized inventory that describes Maryland's rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals, as well as unique and exemplary natural communities. At over 1,000 sites, 875 species of plants and animals are tracked.

Since 1986, a State listing of the threatened and endangered species has been maintained. Currently, the list numbers 344 plants and 114 animals protected by State law. Staff biologists also monitor ecologically vulnerable species and those with declining populations or dwindling habitat. In addition, this office advises federal, State and county agencies and educational institutions on ecological resources in Maryland (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 5-1501 through 5-1506).

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**LICENSING & REGISTRATION SERVICE**

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Bruce A. Gilmore, *Director*  
(410) 974-5623

The Licensing and Registration Service began as the Licensing and Watercraft Registration Service. Under its present name, it became part of the Resource Management Service in 1995.

The Licensing and Registration Service is responsible for assessing and collecting vessel excise taxes; issuing certificates of registration and title to vessels; issuing recreational fishing, commercial fishing and hunting licenses; and managing a network of sport license agents. The Service also works with Maryland boaters and the marine industry, promulgates boating and waterway regulations, and biennially produces the *Guide for Cruising Maryland Waters*. It operates regional service centers in Annapolis, Bel Air, Centreville, Cumberland, Prince Frederick, and Salisbury (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 4-601 through 4-1043; 8-701 through 8-740; 10-301 through 10-1108).

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**DEFUNCT DEPARTMENTAL AGENCIES**

**ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM**

Formerly under the Boating Administration, became the Administrative Services Bureau of the Natural Resources Police Force in 1995.

**ADVISORY BOARD**

Disbanded in January 1996, the Advisory Board for the Department had been inactive since 1994.

**BOATING ADMINISTRATION**

Formerly under Resource Management, the Administration was ended in 1995. Functions of the Administration were transferred to the Natural Resources Police Force, the Land and Water Conservation Service, and the Licensing and Registration Service.

**CHESAPEAKE BAY RESEARCH & MONITORING**

Formerly under the Tidewater Administration, renamed Monitoring and Nontidal Assessment Division and placed under the Resource Assessment Service in 1995.

**COASTAL & WATERSHED RESOURCES DIVISION**

Formerly under the Tidewater Administration, Division functions became part of the Chesapeake and Coastal Watershed Service in 1995.

**DATA SYSTEMS DIVISION**

Under the Water Resources Administration, the Division was renamed the Administrative Services Division in 1994.