

fish and other natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay and other tidal waters of the State. The Director shall devote his full time to the work of the Department and shall receive such salary as may be provided in the annual State budget. The PRESENT Director WHO IS HOLDING OFFICE AT THE TIME OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT shall hold office under and subject to the provisions of Article 64A of this Code, title "Merit System." AFTER THE DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE OF THE EXISTING DIRECTOR, ANY SUBSEQUENT DIRECTOR APPOINTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT SHALL HOLD OFFICE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR. The Director shall from time to time at the request of the Governor or as may be necessary, report to the Governor on the functions and operations of the Department. Wherever reference is made in this or any other section of this Code to the chairman of the Commission of Tidewater Fisheries, it shall hereafter mean the Director of the Department.

(b) As the administrative head of the Department, the Director shall be responsible for the exercise of all the powers and duties conferred upon the Department by the provisions of this article.

(c) The Director shall appoint the staff of the Department subject to the provisions of the Merit System. The staff of the Department shall consist of such employees as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Department, in such numbers and at the salaries provided in the annual State budget. Insofar as the provisions of the Merit System provide for disciplinary or dismissal proceedings against employees to be brought by the appointing authority, the Director shall be the appointing authority. All employees shall be under the supervision and control of the Director and shall perform such duties as he may prescribe. ~~Employees of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries having a Merit System status on June 1, 1964, shall be retained in their respective positions with the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs, except that the Director may abolish any position which he considers unnecessary and may change the duties of any position notwithstanding any limitations imposed by the Merit System or any other applicable law. The Director may require~~ SUCH DUTIES AS HE MAY PRESCRIBE. THE DIRECTOR AND EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TIDEWATER FISHERIES WHO, AS OF JUNE 1, 1964, HAVE HELD SUCH EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE MERIT SYSTEM LAW, ARTICLE 64A OF THIS CODE, FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS PRIOR THERETO SHALL BE RETAINED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CHESAPEAKE BAY AFFAIRS. THE DIRECTOR MAY REQUIRE any employee who receives monies to furnish bond in such amount as the Director may determine.

(d) The Director shall serve as a departmental member of the Board of Natural Resources.

(e) The Director shall exercise all other powers and duties necessary and proper in carrying out the responsibilities vested in him under this article.

11. The employees of the Department assigned to law enforcement duties shall have and may exercise the powers of police officers or constables of this State, and such powers may be exercised anywhere within the territorial limits of this State.