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## ASSISTANT SECRETARY, NATURAL RESOURCES

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James W. Peck, *Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources*

Tawes State Office Building  
580 Taylor Ave.  
Annapolis, MD 21401 974-3548

The Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources is responsible for three agencies: Tidewater Administration; Natural Resources Police Force; and Boat-ing Administration.

### TIDEWATER ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Paul O. Massicot, *Administrator*

Tawes State Office Building  
580 Taylor Ave.  
Annapolis, MD 21401 974-2926

The Tidewater Administration was created in 1979 (Chapter 601, Acts of 1979). Reorganized in 1988, the Administration oversees the work of the Fisheries Division, Coastal Resources Division, Chesapeake Bay Research and Monitoring Division, and Power Plant and Environmental Review Division.

### FISHERIES DIVISION

W. Peter Jensen, *Director* 974-3558

The Fisheries Division carries out duties of the former Fisheries Administration, created by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972. The Division preserves, enhances, develops, and oversees use of fishery resources in Maryland.

The Division's Fishery Management Program plants oyster shells for propagation, transplants seed oysters on public oyster bars, and monitors blue crab movement to gauge fluctuations in annual harvest. The Program studies young fish annually to determine reproductive success, monitors anadromous fish reproduction and harvests, supports striped bass hatcheries for research and release, and develops pond and reservoir fisheries. The Program also reviews permit applications, investigates disease and parasite infestations, develops and analyzes statistics for management decisions, and formulates management plans. The Division strives to provide maximum opportunities for public trout fishing within existing habitat while preserving and enhancing natural trout resources within the State.

In 1984, the Department began an "Adopt a Rockfish" Program (Chapter 687, Acts of 1984). Under this program, any person may "adopt" a rockfish by paying \$5.00 to the Department. The

"adoption" entitles the person to a certificate of appreciation for helping to save the rockfish, the State fish. Revenues received are used to monitor striped bass (rockfish) and inform the public of ecological management programs.

The Watermen's Compensation Program is conducted by the Division. Recommended by the Task Force to Develop a Watermen's Compensation Program, the Program supplements the income of commercial fishermen and charter boat captains affected by the moratorium on fishing for rockfish. Under the Program, commercial fishermen are employed to conduct field surveys and finfish enhancement projects under Division direction.

The Division also sponsors the "Catch a Fortune" Contest. To stimulate interest in sport fishing for species other than rockfish, fish worth substantial prizes are tagged and released for this contest.

The Division is served by seven advisory committees: Clam Advisory Committee; Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission; Statewide Oyster Divers Committee; Statewide Oyster Dredgers Committee; Statewide Oyster Patent Tongers Committee; and Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission.

#### CLAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Contact: W. Peter Jensen 974-3558  
(Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 4-1032)

#### SPORT FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMISSION

*Chairperson:* Ronald A. Moser, 1989  
Contact: W. Peter Jensen 974-3558

Appointed by Governor with advice of Secretary of Natural Resources: Dr. James Gilford, 1989; Kenneth Wilson, 1989; C. Donald Auld, 1990; Kimberly Kaestner, 1990; Tammie Mumma, 1990; William G. Huppert, 1992; Edward O'Brien, 1992; Guy Turenne, 1992.

The Commission advises the Department on sport fishing matters. The Commission consists of nine members appointed to four-year terms (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 1-102, 4-204).

#### STATEWIDE OYSTER DIVERS COMMITTEE

Appointed by Governor: *not yet appointed*

#### STATEWIDE OYSTER DREDGERS COMMITTEE

Contact: W. Peter Jensen 974-3558  
(Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 4-1106)

#### STATEWIDE OYSTER PATENT TONGERS COMMITTEE

Appointed by Governor: *not yet appointed*

#### STATEWIDE OYSTER TONGERS COMMITTEE

*Chairperson:* Rodney Gross  
Contact: W. Peter Jensen 974-3558  
(Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 4-1106)