

*Annual Report of Maryland Environmental Trust to Governor & General Assembly.*

*Annual Report of Maryland Environmental Trust to Governor, budget committees of General Assembly, & Dept. of Fiscal Services on Land Trust Grant Fund due Jan. 15.*

*Annual Report of Scenic and Wild Rivers Review Board to General Assembly.*

*Biennial Report to Governor & General Assembly on flood control and watershed management due Jan. 1.*

*Biennial Report with Secretary of the Environment to General Assembly on Chesapeake Bay monitoring program and status of Bay resources.*

*Biennial Report with Secretary of the Environment and Secretary of Budget & Fiscal Planning on cumulative environmental impact of all electric power plants operating in State.*

*Quarterly Report to Secretary of Personnel on part-time positions.*

*Report to Secretary of Budget & Fiscal Planning & Legislative Auditor on account examinations of private care providers under State contract due periodically.*

*Report to Senate Budget & Taxation Committee & House Appropriations Committee on new State nursery plans due prior to expenditure of funds.*

*Report to Senate Budget & Taxation Committee & House Appropriations Committee on proposed special fund appropriations from Whiterway Improvement Fund & Environmental Trust Fund due prior to expenditure of funds.*

*Report to Senate Budget & Taxation Committee & House Appropriations Committee on proposed use of Program Open Space expenditures for Advanced Option & Purchase Fund acquisitions due prior to expenditure of funds.*

*Reports (with Office of Planning) to Senate Budget & Taxation Committee & House Appropriations Committee on reassessment of authorized land acquisition program due Dec. 1 (through 1992).*

*Semi-annual Report to State Treasurer on anticipated debt during next seven-month period due Jan. 1 & July 1.*

---

#### ORIGIN & FUNCTIONS

---

Created in 1969, the Department of Natural Resources works to ensure the preservation, development, wise use, and enjoyment of all 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.

Throughout the nineteenth century, the General Assembly acted to safeguard Bay oysters, clams, and fish, and during the twentieth century, crabs. As early as 1820, the legislature noted in "An Act to prevent the destruction of Oysters in this State" that "well grounded apprehensions are entertained of the utter extinction of oysters in the state" (Chapter 24, Acts of 1820). By 1868, the State Oyster Police Force was created to enforce State oyster laws. Reorganized as the State Fishery Force in 1874, it was placed under the Commissioner of Fisheries.

Yet, the earliest origins of the Department of Natural Resources trace to geological and mapping functions of the first State Geological Survey, which operated from 1834 to 1841. In 1896, the State Geological and Economic Survey was formed (Chapter 51, Acts of 1896). That same year, the State Game Warden's Office was created (Chapter 293, Acts of 1896). State programs for woodlands were initiated ten years later, when the State Board of Forestry was established (Chapter 294, Acts of 1906).

The State Fishery Force, the State Game Warden, and the Engineer became part of the newly formed Conservation Commission in 1916 (Chapter 682, Acts of 1916). The Commission was charged with oversight of oysters, clams, fish, crabs, terrapin, wild fowl, birds, game, and fur-bearing animals. In 1935, the Conservation Department was formed, governed by the Conservation Commission (Chapter 523, Acts of 1935).

More conservation agencies were created in 1941: the Board of Natural Resources; the Department of Tidewater Fisheries; the Department of Game and Inland Fish; the Department of State Forests and