
FISH, HERITAGE, & WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION

Robert A. Bachman, *Director*
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The Fish, Heritage, and Wildlife Administration began in 1970 as the Fish and Wildlife Administration and became the Wildlife Administration in 1972 (Chapter 252, Acts of 1970; Chapter 348, Acts of 1972). In 1984, the Forest and Park Service merged with the Wildlife Administration to form the Forest, Park and Wildlife Service (Chapter 136, Acts of 1984). Through a reorganization in 1992, the Fish, Heritage, and Wildlife Administration was created to oversee three programs: Wildlife; Natural Heritage; and Freshwater Fisheries.

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Joshua L. Sandt, *Director*
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The Wildlife Program applies modern professional wildlife management techniques both to control and assure continuing wildlife while affording optimum public recreational opportunities compatible with the welfare of wildlife resources. The Program engages in field surveys and research projects to evaluate public demands on wildlife resources, wildlife populations, harvesting parameters, and relevant environmental factors. It constructs ponds (primarily waterfowl habitat) and plants food and cover vegetation. It also manages and protects birds, land-based reptiles and amphibians, and mammals. Under its protection are game species, nongame species, and threatened and endangered wildlife.

The Program develops and manages thirty-two State Wildlife Management Areas (public hunting areas). The Program also manages and administers recreational use of cooperative wildlife areas and some State park areas.

The Program is aided by several advisory bodies among which are the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Implementation Committee; Captive Wildlife Advisory Committee; Farm Game Advisory Committee; Waterfowl Advisory Committee; Wildlife Advisory Commission; and Wild Turkey Advisory Committee.

WATERFOWL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vacancy, *Chairperson*

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

The Waterfowl Advisory Committee was formerly the Duck Release Program Advisory Committee. Appointed by the Governor, the Committee works with the Wildlife Program to develop an

improved duck release program (Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 1-102).

WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION

C. A. Porter Hopkins, *Chairperson*, 1993

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

The Governor appoints the 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).

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

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The Natural Heritage Program 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. Since 1979, the Program has maintained a State listing of the threatened and endangered species. Currently, the list numbers 497 plants and 121 animals protected by State law. Staff biologists also monitor ecologically vulnerable species and those with declining populations or dwindling habitat. The Program advises federal, State and local county agencies and educational institutions on ecological resources in Maryland (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 5-1501 through 5-1506).

FRESHWATER FISHERIES

H. Robert Lunsford, *Director*
(410) 974-3061

Created in 1991, Freshwater Fisheries protects, preserves, and restores the freshwater fish resources of Maryland. Through administration of the Fisheries Management and Protection Fund, Freshwater Fisheries conducts scientific investigations and environmental review, propagates fish, and manages the nontidal finfish of the State.

Through standardized field surveys, Freshwater Fisheries maintains a data base of the physical, chemical and biological properties of freshwater resources as a basis for environmental review and management planning. By analysis of this data base, consultation with the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission, and communication with the angling public, Freshwater Fisheries regulates Maryland freshwater fish resources to assure a pleasurable angling experience and preserve freshwater fish stock for future generations.
