

Department of Natural Resources

MISSION

The Department of Natural Resources leads Maryland in securing a sustainable future for our environment, society, and economy by preserving, protecting, restoring, and enhancing the State's natural resources.

VISION

In a sustainable Maryland, we recognize that the health of our society and our economy are dependent on the health of our environment. Therefore, we choose to act both collectively and individually to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance our environment for this and future generations.

KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1. Healthy Terrestrial Ecosystems.

- Obj. 1.1** Establish scientifically supported sustainable harvest strategies for game species populations through a variety of survey methods.
- Obj. 1.2** Restore 2,000 acres of critical plant and wildlife habitat by June 30, 2018.
- Obj. 1.3** Preserve and protect Maryland's aquatic and wildlife habitats and populations by increasing the number of conservation inspections conducted to 150,000 by 2017.
- Obj. 1.4** Restore 2,000 miles of riparian forest buffers (RFBs) in Maryland by 2025.
- Obj. 1.5** Provide multiple ecosystem benefits by annually achieving integrated resource management covering 25,000 acres of non-industrial private forest lands and guiding 700 forest landowners in natural resources management that meets their needs.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of deer hunting participants	70,000	70,700	66,000	66,000	62,000	62,000	62,000
Number of bear hunting participants	553	690	750	1,060	1,730	1,800	2,000
Number of deer harvested	98,000	87,500	95,800	86,900	84,000	84,000	84,000
Number of bear harvested	65	92	94	69	95	120	140
Cumulative number of acres of habitat restored since 2004	1,500	1,600	1,800	1,855	1,905	1,960	2,000
Cumulative acres of early successional habitat created	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	676	1,326	1,976
Number of Park Service acres restored to preserve biodiversity	N/A	N/A	120	120	180	150	200
Number of conservation inspections conducted	162,157	147,638	131,268	154,854	161,585	156,055	156,055
Number of conservation inspections per officer	983	923	763	927	878	776	716
Acres of RFBs established	262	281	263	251	258	250	250
Miles of RFBs restored in Maryland	13	16	15	17	16	15	15
Cumulative miles restored in Bay Watershed since 1996	1,338	1,354	1,369	1,386	1,402	1,417	1,432
Number of acres covered by Forest Stewardship Plans	23,537	17,822	17,651	19,112	32,203	18,000	18,000
Total acres of management practices implemented	19,993	22,706	15,964	23,349	28,948	19,000	19,000
Number of wildfires suppressed	137	134	135	135	131	200	200
Acres of wildfires suppressed	544	569	1,733	1,061	185	2,000	2,000

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Goal 2. Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems.

- Obj. 2.1** Utilizing the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund, annually reduce coastal non-point source pollution from entering Chesapeake, coastal, and ocean waters. Report on the status of key Chesapeake Bay resources as government, commercial, and citizen efforts to restore water and habitat quality of the Bay and its watershed continue through 2025.
- Obj. 2.2** Annually produce technical assessments on Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) distribution and prevalence for Maryland’s waters, develop new management strategies, and provide timely information to the public and agencies charged with protecting public health.
- Obj. 2.3** Assess ecosystem components within non-tidal waters to evaluate critical fisheries and habitat elements for protection and/or restoration.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of nitrogen reduced through annual and structural land use change Best Management Plans (BMPs)	N/A	1,337,478	1,576,706	2,104,961	1,678,254	2,243,566	2,203,730
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of phosphorus reduced through annual and structural land use change BMPs	N/A	53,962	104,624	165,179	168,531	203,942	215,307
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of sediment reduced through annual and structural land use change BMPs (millions)	N/A	185.005	367.169	370.729	373.057	374.976	376.289
¹ Number of tributaries with Harmful Algal Blooms	12	6	12	11	7	7	7
¹ Number of fish or human health events reported/responses	20	20	0	4	0	0	0
¹ Acres of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (goal=114,034)	24,512	28,905	39,912	53,277	60,000	70,000	80,000
Number of sites where Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) benthic, fish, herpetofauna, and habitat samples are collected	200	95	165	219	220	220	220
¹ Number of volunteer benthic samples collected and processed	500	362	306	240	99	75	50
¹ Number of freshwater watersheds with data available	57	37	43	65	60	60	60

- Obj. 2.4** Complete comprehensive reviews of local Critical Area Programs to assure consistency with law and regulations.
- Obj. 2.5** Maximize the preservation and protection of living resources and aquatic habitat by providing annual, comprehensive surveys, charts, and accurate markings of State waterways.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Percentage of Critical Area Programs reviewed and completed during the six-year cycle as required by law, and fully consistent with the Critical Area law and regulation	23%	20%	16%	4%	8%	17%	30%
¹ Number of monitoring stations reporting water quality trends	N/A	N/A	N/A	196	196	201	201
Number of oyster habitat and oyster location surveys completed	937	167	735	109	147	175	200
Number of waterway violation cases supported	114	171	132	66	65	66	67

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Obj. 2.6 Annually achieve fishery sustainability objectives (target fishing level and/or biomass threshold) for blue crab, striped bass and oyster fisheries.

Obj. 2.7 Restore native oyster habitat and populations in 10 tributaries (5 in Maryland) by 2025 and ensure their protection.

Obj. 2.8 Facilitate the development of the Maryland aquaculture industry through collaboration with the Maryland Aquaculture Coordinating Council.

Obj. 2.9 Annually achieve statewide finfish population restoration and enhancement Sportfish Restoration objectives through 2020.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
¹ Number of fisheries being tracked/reviewed annually in accordance to a management plan	N/A	N/A	20	22	26	26	26
¹ Harvest rate (exploitation fraction) of female blue crabs relative to target harvest rate (25.5 percent)	10%	23%	17%	15%	25%	25%	25%
¹ Crab winter dredge survey index of stock size (density-crabs/1000m)	79	32	32	50	58	50	50
¹ Striped bass juvenile index (abundance of young of the year fish)	34.6	5.8	11.0	24.2	2.2	11.9	11.9
¹ Number of bushels of oysters harvested	121,173	343,575	422,382	393,588	385,000	340,000	300,000
¹ Oyster biomass index (1994 base =1; goal = 10)	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.3
¹ Number of hatchery oysters planted (millions)	475.0	655.0	635.0	816.7	831.0	800.0	800.0
¹ Acres of oyster habitat rehabilitated through planting of shell or non-shell habitat	1.5	0.0	61.0	126.5	182.0	113.0	135.0
Number of new or expanded aquaculture businesses	30	36	57	54	68	65	65
¹ Produce fish to meet statewide management needs (millions)	N/A	13.1	8.3	6.8	7.6	7.0	7.0
¹ Stock hatchery-cultured finfish to support population restoration, population enhancement, corrective stocking, put-and-take fishing, outreach, education, and research (millions)	10.2	10.1	7.1	5.7	6.6	5.0	5.0

Obj 2.10 Certify five additional Clean Marinas annually.

Obj 2.11 Screen 20 applications per year to provide grants for the purchase and installation of marine sewage pumpout stations.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
¹ Clean marinas certified	6	6	6	3	3	4	4
¹ Cumulative number of clean marinas in State adopting best management practices (including those decertified over time)	148	150	154	155	156	157	158
Total number of pumpout stations operating in the State	347	360	350	350	340	345	350
New pumpout stations installed	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Pumpout stations replaced or upgraded	16	12	14	9	9	17	13

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Goal 3. Fiscal Responsibility: Efficient Use of Energy & Resources and Support of Long-Term Economic Prosperity.

Obj. 3.1 Protect Maryland's ecologically-valuable lands and waters through effective project review, including permit applications, and policy strategies.

Obj. 3.2 Protect high value natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities on public and private lands by reviewing more than 2,500 proposed projects and permits, on an annual basis, to minimize environmental harm and preserve investments in public lands.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of requests for new critical maintenance capital projects on DNR lands	N/A	N/A	71	92	116	100	100
Number of requests for new major capital development projects on DNR land (not including critical maintenance projects)	N/A	N/A	45	27	43	40	40
Number of projects on DNR lands initiated or completed	346	393	260	349	258	260	270
Percent of major capital development projects on DNR lands initiated or completed	90%	95%	94%	86%	86%	88%	90%
Number of reviews for projects on public lands	N/A	293	247	268	280	290	300
Number of external permits and projects reviewed for impacts	N/A	2,290	2,340	2,405	2,372	2,260	2,240
Total number of proactive measures developed that afford additional protection to Maryland's natural resources	N/A	N/A	36	50	47	40	40
Number of project proposals reviewed for impacts to threatened and endangered species and other species of concern	2,361	1,881	2,181	2,848	1,989	2,000	2,000

Obj. 3.3 Increase the number of State and local governments prepared for the impacts of future storm-events, shoreline changes, and sea level rise.

Obj. 3.4 Annually issue assessments and recommendations to minimize the environmental, public health, and socioeconomic impacts of electric energy facilities.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Cumulative number of Maryland's state agencies and coastal communities who have incorporated sea level and climate considerations into planning and management strategies	N/A	2	4	8	8	3	3
¹ Number of new power plant/transmission line projects under review	54	34	44	35	41	30	30

Goal 4. Citizen Stewardship, Outdoor Recreation, & Opportunities to Take Action.

Obj. 4.1 Annually increase the number of youth conservation program participants and projects.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Additional number of youth participants in corps programs	406	339	359	369	383	400	400
Number of stewardship projects completed by youth corps	3,015	2,012	2,473	2,388	2,400	2,450	2,500

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- Obj. 4.2** Increase attendance of Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) sponsored workshops and trainings.
- Obj. 4.3** Contribute to achieving State education mandates and goals for environmental literacy by providing a combination of workshops, training, and educational opportunities that support schools (through professional development for educators and classroom and outdoor experiences for students), parks, and partner environmental education providers.
- Obj. 4.4** Annually provide outdoor recreational, historical, and cultural resource experiences for over 10 million visitors to State Parks.
- Obj. 4.5** Annually increase customer service satisfaction rating and improve fiscal sustainability.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
MET Workshop and conference attendance	200	205	287	253	377	300	300
Number of educators and volunteers trained	710	629	1,985	2,006	1,978	1,940	1,875
Number of students participating in classroom, field and other activities	13,650	55,363	54,556	63,978	69,102	65,000	65,000
Number of DNR social media followers	35,100	43,950	86,500	90,000	125,000	137,000	150,000
Number of State Park acres available to the public	138,000	140,500	140,500	138,015	138,270	139,000	139,500
Acres of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	112,393	112,575	112,575	119,808	123,530	123,530	123,530
Number of visitors using parks (millions)	11.08	10.09	10.30	11.26	12.94	13.00	13.00
Number of trail miles available	N/A	N/A	591	880	927	944	972
Number of Park Service interpretive and environmental education	N/A	N/A	N/A	100,135	245,547	250,000	250,000
Percent of visitors rating their park experience as excellent or above average	N/A	N/A	92%	91%	90%	92%	92%

- Obj. 4.6** Annually reduce the number of accidents and injuries through education programs, to include public relations outreach efforts targeted at the prior years boating and hunting accident stats for causal factors.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of reportable boating accidents	168	123	120	130	150	152	152
Number of hunting accidents	15	24	8	7	16	14	14

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- Obj. 4.7** Ensure safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for boaters, hunters, park visitors, and others participating in outdoor recreation activities by providing effective law enforcement services as a public safety agency.
- Obj. 4.8** Conduct and perform daily patrols and activities that support Maritime Homeland Security designed to provide a safe and secure environment for Maryland citizens and visitors alike.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of hunters checked	16,482	13,767	13,425	16,561	16,501	16,500	16,500
Number of boating inspections	38,129	31,337	23,271	34,405	43,281	36,000	36,000
Number of law enforcement officers	165	160	172	167	184	201	218
Number of law enforcement contacts	307,496	261,250	237,955	294,075	309,427	286,494	286,494
Number of law enforcement citations/warnings	27,157	35,712	35,603	31,489	31,239	30,000	30,000
Hours spent on Waterway Patrols	N/A	30,177	29,517	39,736	42,018	40,000	40,000
Hours spent on Public Land Patrols	N/A	60,894	58,741	59,647	62,544	60,000	60,000
Uniform Crime Report data – Part 1 crimes	99	245	253	227	149	186	186
Number of Homeland Security patrol checks	9,318	7,061	4,589	6,681	12,142	8,000	8,000

- Obj. 4.9** Coordinate with Departmental units and other Federal, State and local agencies to develop assessments of existing and potential boating access sites and maps for the general boating public and annually provide new or enhanced public boating access sites throughout the State.
- Obj 4.10** Support the Maryland State Boat Act Advisory Committee in reviewing and implementing regulations affecting the equipment and operation of vessels in Maryland waters. Ensure that State-owned and State-leased marina facilities remain viable. Oversee the completion of capital projects at these facilities to maximize slip occupancy and public access.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
¹ Potential public access boating sites identified	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Number of projects provided technical assistance	20	22	24	25	25	25	25
¹ Number of public boating sites enhanced or created	58	39	23	30	52	56	57
Number abandoned vessels removed from State waters	22	22	19	16	23	20	20
Cumulative miles of water trails established in State	695	695	709	737	745	760	775
Number of waterway projects funded annually	74	42	25	35	59	60	65
Amount of funding awarded for waterway projects (\$)	1,500,000	7,431,000	4,740,000	4,000,000	6,000,000	10,500,000	11,000,000
Number of projects incorporating sustainable components	39	25	6	24	40	39	40
Number of dredge projects funded annually	1	3	1	8	15	12	15
Amount of funding awarded for dredge projects (\$)	362,000	943,000	97,000	1,575,272	2,949,847	3,679,975	3,800,000
¹ Number of long-term slip leases realized	303	340	331	300	325	235	245
¹ Number of transient slip leases realized	635	775	823	550	555	525	535

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Goal 5. Vibrant Communities & Neighborhoods.

Obj. 5.1 Annually meet Departmental land conservation goals to protect strategic natural resources while providing recreational and economic opportunities.

Obj. 5.2 Protect an additional 1,000 acres annually with MET conservation easements, and seek to visually inspect (monitor) each property once annually.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Program Open Space (POS) acquisition acres approved by the Board of Public Works (BPW)	2,323	5,695	4,124	4,425	5,596	5,400	5,400
Rural Legacy easement/fee simple acres approved by the BPW	4,480	1,340	3,114	2,862	3,533	5,000	6,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) permanent easement acres approved by the BPW	1,103	184	0	830	259	600	500
Number of acres protected annually by MET easements	2,400	1,370	2,438	763	808	1,000	1,000
Number of acres of protected lands	10,306	8,589	9,676	8,880	10,196	12,000	12,900
Percent of POS Stateside acquisition acres approved by the BPW located within a Targeted Ecological Area	98%	94%	93%	91%	97%	85%	85%
Percent of all easements monitored and under compliance with easement conditions	87%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of MET easements monitored by volunteers	146	70	191	145	40	115	130
Number of MET easements monitored by local land trusts	81	249	189	137	101	210	230

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Obj. 5.3 Annually fund more than 100 projects to assist local subdivisions in the planning, acquisition, and/or development of recreation land or open space area.

Obj. 5.4 Annually, 80 percent of acquisition contracts negotiated by Land Acquisition and Planning (LAP) are below the highest appraised value for acquisitions.

Obj. 5.5 Work with communities and jurisdictions to conserve existing tree canopy and expand it by 45 acres annually.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of local POS projects	67	112	110	138	131	110	110
Number of community parks and playgrounds projects	34	23	31	32	55	25	25
Number of negotiations conducted annually by LAP	13	30	48	30	26	30	30
Percent of approved contracts negotiated by LAP with contract price below the highest appraised value	80%	90%	88%	80%	81%	80%	80%
Acres of trees planted in developed areas	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	81	90	90
Acres of trees planted in rural areas (non-buffer)	N/A	N/A	N/A	326	292	200	200
Acres reforested for Forest Conservation Act (FCA) mitigation	500	265	312	318	759	750	750
Acres conserved through FCA long-term protection	1,935	2,050	2,280	2,040	4,503	3,000	3,000
Number of roadside tree permits issued	668	706	732	1,043	1,190	1,200	1,200
Acres of practices on Municipal Watersheds	100	116	130	120	127	100	100
Acres of restored forest land (afforestation and reforestation)	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,136	1,007	1,000	1,000

Obj. 5.6 Preserve and restore the protective functions of near shore tidal habitats such as marshes, beaches, dunes, and wetlands.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Square feet of near shore habitat created or protected	N/A	150,000	150,000	150,000	66,000	157,000	150,000

NOTES

¹ Data for 2016 is estimated because it is reported on a calendar year basis.