

# 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 and/or maintain 5,000 acres of critical plant and wildlife habitat by June 30, 2027.
- Obj. 1.3** Preserve and protect Maryland's aquatic and wildlife habitats and populations by increasing the number of conservation inspections conducted to 170,000 by 2021.
- 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	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Number of deer hunting participants	70,400	70,500	62,000	62,000	59,692	61,000	61,000
Number of bear hunting participants	2,059	2,375	2,643	1,870	1,889	1,900	1,900
Number of deer harvested	77,382	79,457	81,729	70,845	76,687	77,000	77,000
Number of bears harvested	135	145	117	54	103	110	110
Cumulative number of acres of habitat restored since 2004	4,196	4,216	4,235	4,350	5,200	5,600	6,000
Cumulative acres of early successional habitat created	2,549	3,632	5,130	5,381	5,632	5,830	6,030
Number of Park Service acres restored to preserve biodiversity	606	131	39	155	376	250	200
Number of conservation inspections conducted	146,210	170,789	114,965	154,047	142,521	145,371	148,279
Number of conservation inspections per officer	949	959	653	1,007	885	886	888
Acres of RFBs established	145	213	169	226	206	230	250
Miles of RFBs restored in Maryland	7	17	10	10	9	11	12
Cumulative miles restored in Bay Watershed since 1996	1,431	1,448	1,458	1,468	1,477	1,488	1,500
Number of acres covered by Forest Stewardship Plans	24,781	23,449	33,989	22,802	22,047	23,000	23,000
Total acres of management practices implemented	29,175	28,220	17,507	25,015	22,639	23,000	23,500
Number of wildfires suppressed	47	158	77	124	183	130	130
Acres of wildfires suppressed	1,223	1,678	1,153	3,067	4,658	2,959	3,561

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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	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of nitrogen reduced through annual and structural land use change Best Management Plans (BMPs)	3,509,111	4,591,551	4,330,106	4,464,554	4,683,602	4,781,673	4,871,106
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of phosphorus reduced through annual and structural land use change BMPs	193,764	199,538	213,318	220,550	228,377	235,176	240,931
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of sediment reduced through annual and structural land use change BMPs (millions)	376.006	370.758	370.766	373.039	370.779	370.786	370.792
<sup>1,2</sup> Number of tributaries with Harmful Algal Blooms	8	18	18	N/A	1	12	12
<sup>1</sup> Number of fish or human health advisories events reported/responses	3	4	4	4	5	4	4
<sup>1</sup> Acres of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (goal=114,034)	39,264	35,266	35,194	37,738	39,535	41,907	44,421
<sup>1</sup> Number of sites where Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) benthic, fish, herpetofauna, or habitat samples are collected	152	162	171	189	139	140	140
<sup>1</sup> Number of freshwater mussel surveys	N/A	36	30	36	50	50	50
<sup>1</sup> Number of freshwater watersheds with data available	46	41	84	84	84	84	84

- 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	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 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	3%	3%	9%	6%	3%	25%	3%
<sup>1</sup> Number of monitoring stations reporting water quality trends	188	198	198	199	197	197	206
Number of oyster habitat and oyster location surveys completed	285	104	97	27	30	40	50
Number of waterway violation cases supported	103	71	16	8	16	16	16

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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 2021.

Performance Measures	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
<sup>1</sup> Number of fisheries being tracked/reviewed annually in accordance to a management plan	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
<sup>1</sup> Harvest rate (exploitation fraction) of female blue crabs relative to target harvest rate (28 percent)	17%	23%	29%	31%	28%	28%	28%
<sup>1</sup> Female crab winter dredge survey index of stock size (density-female crabs/1000m)	19.8	14.5	16.5	10.6	15.5	15.0	15.0
<sup>1</sup> Striped bass juvenile index (abundance of young of the year fish)	3.4	2.5	3.2	3.6	1.0	11.4	11.4
Number of bushels of oysters harvested by the public fishery	145,336	274,325	346,698	542,888	625,191	500,000	400,000
Oyster biomass index (1994 base =1; goal = 10)	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.3
<sup>1</sup> Number of hatchery oysters planted in large-scale restoration sanctuaries (millions)	24	164	697	511	840	840	231
<sup>1</sup> Acres of oyster habitat restored in large-scale restoration sanctuaries	11	12	66	41	176	150	74
Number of new or expanded aquaculture businesses	42	41	26	23	43	47	51
Stock hatchery-cultured finfish to support population restoration, population enhancement, corrective stocking, put-and-take fishing, outreach, education, and research (millions)	6.4	5.2	5.0	6.5	4.9	5.6	5.8

**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 pump out stations.

Performance Measures	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
<sup>1</sup> Clean marinas certified	0	3	1	0	3	2	2
<sup>1</sup> Cumulative number of clean marinas in State adopting best management practices (including those decertified over time)	148	152	150	148	146	148	150
Total number of pumpout stations operating in the State	358	352	349	350	350	352	350
New pumpout stations installed	1	2	0	2	1	1	1
Pumpout stations replaced or upgraded	4	8	11	8	8	10	10

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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	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Number of requests for new critical maintenance capital projects on DNR lands	95	84	75	60	202	21	50
Number of requests for new major capital development projects on DNR land (not including critical maintenance projects)	47	58	47	33	37	39	41
Number of projects on DNR lands initiated or completed	108	96	76	56	195	40	46
Percent of major capital development projects on DNR lands initiated or completed	86%	90%	72%	75%	92%	80%	85%
Number of reviews for projects on public lands	360	364	354	340	310	325	340
Number of external permits and projects reviewed for impacts	2,741	2,360	2,210	2,148	2,043	2,120	2,240
Total number of proactive measures developed that afford additional protection to Maryland's natural resources	16	18	12	11	14	15	16
Number of project proposals reviewed for impacts to threatened and endangered species and other species of concern	2,080	2,296	2,025	1,974	2,021	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	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Cumulative number of Maryland’s state agencies and coastal communities who have incorporated sea level and climate considerations into planning and management strategies	6	7	46	59	11	8	8
<sup>1</sup> Number of new power plant/transmission line projects under review	24	8	6	7	11	13	11

**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	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Additional number of youth participants in corps programs	350	387	85	56	76	44	84
Number of stewardship projects completed by youth corps	2,517	2,621	101	198	202	200	282

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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	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Number of people attending MET educational and outreach events	235	151	270	438	524	270	270
Number of educators trained	731	410	650	438	276	170	210
Number of students participating in classroom, field and other activities	22,252	16,259	9,154	19,131	27,049	35,500	35,000
Number of DNR social media followers	N/A	N/A	180,380	184,267	197,165	210,966	255,733
Number of State Park acres available to the public	141,020	141,180	141,568	142,228	142,433	142,700	143,200
Acres of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	126,609	128,714	129,101	129,160	127,587	127,700	129,500
Number of visitors using parks (millions)	13.56	17.49	21.66	19.35	17.76	18.00	18.25
Number of trail miles available	1,088	1,134	1,153	1,170	1,173	1,183	1,193
Number of Park Service interpretive and environmental education program participants	248,600	126,000	90,000	171,509	166,853	200,000	200,000
Percent of visitors rating their park experience as excellent or above average	92%	94%	93%	93%	92%	93%	93%

- 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	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Number of reportable boating accidents	170	148	151	138	122	104	88
Number of hunting accidents	12	14	12	7	19	16	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.

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>2019 Act.</b>	<b>2020 Act.</b>	<b>2021 Act.</b>	<b>2022 Act.</b>	<b>2023 Act.</b>	<b>2024 Est.</b>	<b>2025 Est.</b>
Number of hunters checked	15,276	19,312	13,014	19,338	19,094	19,476	19,865
Number of boating inspections	17,015	34,504	23,253	33,809	31,662	32,295	32,941
Number of law enforcement officers	154	178	176	153	161	164	167
Number of law enforcement contacts	115,743	116,635	110,669	118,737	115,932	118,251	120,616
Number of law enforcement citations/warnings	27,477	27,077	30,427	25,175	25,793	26,309	26,835
Hours spent on Waterway Patrols	28,572	43,395	44,348	86,892	84,577	86,269	87,994
Hours spent on Public Land Patrols	40,222	55,554	36,653	74,416	72,501	73,951	75,430
Uniform Crime Report data – Part 1 crimes	137	127	194	104	100	98	96
Number of Homeland Security patrol checks	14,691	14,529	10,444	17,801	14,968	15,267	15,573

- 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.

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>2019 Act.</b>	<b>2020 Act.</b>	<b>2021 Act.</b>	<b>2022 Act.</b>	<b>2023 Act.</b>	<b>2024 Est.</b>	<b>2025 Est.</b>
<sup>1</sup> Cumulative number of public access points	480	490	493	496	500	504	508
Number of projects provided technical assistance	30	114	122	98	90	95	95
<sup>1</sup> Number of public boating sites enhanced or created	48	38	31	0	21	34	38
Number abandoned vessels removed from State waters	38	67	39	27	32	40	40
Cumulative miles of water trails established in State	788	788	788	800	800	805	810
Number of waterway projects funded annually	57	58	43	60	45	48	55
Amount of funding awarded for waterway projects (\$)	12,500,000	13,500,000	13,500,000	15,081,254	13,500,000	13,500,000	21,500,000
Number of projects incorporating sustainable components	40	32	28	30	18	29	32
Number of dredge projects funded annually	17	16	5	12	14	14	19
Amount of funding awarded for dredge projects (\$)	5,722,248	6,012,000	2,232,603	4,240,900	4,751,713	3,887,560	6,000,000
<sup>1</sup> Number of long-term slip leases realized	261	253	278	284	282	310	341
<sup>1</sup> Number of transient slip leases realized	640	507	554	793	816	897	986

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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	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Program Open Space (POS) acquisition acres approved by the Board of Public Works (BPW)	5,203	4,444	3,763	2,980	2,090	4,500	5,400
Rural Legacy easement/fee simple acres approved by the BPW	5,400	6,249	4,793	3,825	5,437	5,500	5,500
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) permanent easement acres approved by the BPW	687	322	343	528	243	300	500
Number of acres protected annually by MET easements	940	1,217	1,260	1,421	1,255	1,000	1,000
Number of acres of protected lands	12,231	12,231	10,159	8,754	9,025	11,300	12,400
Percent of POS Stateside acquisition acres approved by the BPW located within a Targeted Ecological Area	96%	67%	61%	88%	94%	70%	70%
Percent of all easements monitored and under compliance with easement conditions	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%
Number of MET easements monitored by volunteers	147	127	212	174	269	200	200
Number of MET easements monitored by local land trusts	338	337	378	397	389	400	400

**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	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Number of local POS projects	152	139	175	131	136	150	140
Number of community parks and playgrounds projects	27	19	20	31	40	20	35
Number of negotiations conducted annually by LAP	43	39	33	24	23	27	30
Percent of approved contracts negotiated by LAP with contract price below the highest appraised value	86%	93%	100%	79%	86%	80%	80%
Acres of trees planted in developed areas	128	53	26	42	78	100	120
Acres of trees planted in rural areas (non-buffer)	109	229	169	368	718	800	850
Acres reforested for Forest Conservation Act (FCA) mitigation	345	580	445	467	518	500	600
Acres conserved through FCA long-term protection	3,462	3,747	3,645	3,644	3,611	3,600	3,600
Number of roadside tree permits issued	1,584	1,575	1,298	1,424	1,250	1,300	1,300
Acres of practices on Municipal Watersheds	527	201	235	163	65	150	150
Acres of restored forest land (afforestation and reforestation)	520	780	627	737	923	1,100	1,200

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

Performance Measures	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Act.	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
Square feet of near shore habitat created or protected	20,000	11,000	0	25,000	5,110	15,000	15,000

**NOTES**

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<sup>1</sup> Data for 2023 is estimated or not available because it is reported on a calendar year basis.

<sup>2</sup> 2022 actual data was not determined due to staffing shortages that prevented laboratory processing of Harmful Algae Bloom samples.