

Department of Natural Resources

MISSION

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) preserves, protects, enhances and restores Maryland's natural resources for the wise use and enjoyment of all citizens.

VISION

To inspire people to enjoy and live in harmony with their environment.

KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1. Accelerate the recovery of coastal resources through improved water quality.

- Obj. 1.1** Utilizing the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund, annually reduce coastal non-point source pollution from entering Chesapeake, coastal and ocean waters and 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 are continued to 2025.
- Obj. 1.2** 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. 1.3** Assess ecosystem components within non-tidal waters to evaluate critical fisheries and habitat elements for protection and/or restoration.
- Obj. 1.4** Complete comprehensive reviews of local Critical Area Programs to assure consistency with law and regulations.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of nitrogen reduced through annual and structural land use change Best Management Plans (BMPs)	N/A	N/A	1,337,478	1,576,706	2,104,961	1,549,291	1,609,291
Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of phosphorus reduced through annual and structural land use change BMPs	N/A	N/A	53,962	104,624	165,179	196,960	266,960
¹ Cumulative pounds of coastal non-point sources of sediment reduced through annual and structural land use change BMPs (millions)	N/A	N/A	185.005	367.169	370.729	372.729	375.729
Number of tributaries with Harmful Algal Blooms	14	12	6	12	4	11	11
Number of fish or human health events reported/responses	72	20	20	0	4	5	5
Acres of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (goal=114,034)	48,000	24,512	28,905	39,912	45,000	51,000	57,000
Number of sites where Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) benthic, fish, herpetofauna, and habitat samples are collected	174	200	95	165	219	220	220
Number of volunteer benthic samples collected and processed	528	500	362	306	240	250	300
Number of freshwater watersheds with data available	43	57	37	43	65	60	60
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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5%	10%

Department of Natural Resources

Obj. 1.5 Certify five additional Clean Marinas annually.

Obj. 1.6 Screen 20 applications per year to provide grants for the purchase and installation of marine sewage pumpout stations.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Clean marinas certified	5	5	5	5	2	3	3
Cumulative number of clean marinas in State adopting best management practices (including those decertified over time)	145	148	150	154	155	157	160
Total number of pumpout stations operating in the State	346	347	360	350	350	352	353
New pumpout stations installed	1	1	1	2	1	2	1
Pumpout stations replaced or upgraded	12	16	12	14	9	8	9

Goal 2. Healthy and productive Maryland watershed lands, ocean, estuaries, wetlands, streams and rivers.

Obj. 2.1 Scientifically supported sustainable harvest strategies for game species populations by a variety of survey methods.

Obj. 2.2 Restore 2,000 acres of critical plant and wildlife habitat by June 30, 2018.

Obj. 2.3 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. 2.4 Maximize the preservation and protection of living resources and aquatic habitat by providing annual, comprehensive surveys, charts, and accurate markings of State waterways.

Obj. 2.5 Annually issue assessments and recommendations to minimize the environmental, public health and socioeconomic impacts of electric energy facilities.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of deer hunting participants	75,500	70,000	70,700	66,000	66,000	68,000	70,000
Number of bear hunting participants	558	553	690	750	1,060	1,100	1,100
Number of deer harvested	98,000	98,000	87,500	95,800	86,900	95,000	93,200
Number of bear harvested	67	65	92	94	69	100	120
Cumulative number of acres of habitat restored since 2004	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,800	1,855	1,900	1,950
Cumulative acres of early successional habitat created	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	150	200
Number of Park Service acres restored to preserve biodiversity	N/A	N/A	N/A	120	120	123	130
Number of conservation inspections conducted	228,716	162,157	147,638	131,268	154,854	155,755	155,755
Number of conservation inspections per officer	1,395	983	923	763	927	824	764
Number of oyster habitat and oyster location surveys completed	381	937	167	735	109	175	176
Number of waterway violation cases supported	231	114	171	132	66	138	140
² Number of new power plant/transmission line projects under review	56	54	34	44	35	44	34

Department of Natural Resources

- 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	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of fisheries being tracked/reviewed annually in accordance to a management plan	N/A	N/A	N/A	20	22	22	23
³ Harvest rate (exploitation fraction) of female blue crabs relative to target harvest rate (25.5 percent)	24%	10%	23%	17%	25%	25%	25%
Crab winter dredge survey index of stock size (density-crabs/1000m)	52	79	32	32	50	45	45
Striped bass juvenile index (abundance of young of the year fish)	5.6	34.6	5.8	11.0	11.0	12.0	12.0
Number of bushels of oysters harvested	166,000	121,173	343,575	422,382	393,588	350,000	250,000
Oyster biomass index (1994 base =1; goal = 10)	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.0
Number of hatchery oysters planted (millions)	454.0	475.0	655.0	635.0	816.7	1,500.0	800.0
Acres of oyster habitat rehabilitated through planting of shell or non-shell habitat	0.0	1.5	0.0	61.0	126.5	150.0	0.0
Number of new or expanded aquaculture businesses	8	30	36	57	54	50	55
Produce fish to meet statewide management needs (millions)	N/A	N/A	13.1	8.3	6.8	9.0	9.0
Stock hatchery-cultured finfish to support population restoration, population enhancement, corrective stocking, put-and-take fishing, outreach, education and research (millions)	12.5	10.2	10.1	7.1	5.7	7.0	7.0

Goal 3. Improve environmental literacy and motivate individuals and groups to take actions that benefit Chesapeake, coastal and ocean resources.

- Obj. 3.1** Annually increase the number of youth conservation program participants and projects.
- Obj. 3.2** Increase attendance of Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) sponsored workshops and trainings.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Additional number of youth participants in corps programs	600	406	339	359	369	380	380
Number of stewardship projects completed by youth corps	3,260	3,015	2,012	2,473	2,388	2,594	2,644
MET Workshop and conference attendance	200	200	205	287	253	300	300

Department of Natural Resources

Obj. 3.3 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.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of educators and volunteers trained	738	710	629	1,985	2,006	1,795	1,975
Number of students participating in classroom, field and other activities	14,467	13,650	55,363	54,556	63,978	65,000	68,000
Number of DNR social media followers	29,300	35,100	43,950	86,500	90,000	110,000	130,000

Goal 4. A conserved and managed statewide network of ecologically valuable private and public lands.

Obj. 4.1 Annually meet Departmental land conservation goals to protect strategic natural resources while providing recreational and economic opportunities.

Obj. 4.2 Protect an additional 1,000 acres annually with MET conservation easements, and seek to visually inspect (monitor) each property once annually.

Obj. 4.3 Annually fund over 100 projects to assist local subdivisions in the planning, acquisition, and/or development of recreation land or open space area.

Obj. 4.4 Annually, 80 percent of acquisition contracts negotiated by Land Acquisition and Planning (LAP) are below the highest appraised value for acquisitions.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Program Open Space (POS) acquisition acres approved by the Board of Public Works (BPW)	5,989	2,323	5,695	4,124	4,425	7,900	7,600
Rural Legacy easement/fee simple acres approved by the BPW	4,455	4,480	1,340	3,114	2,862	2,800	3,500
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) permanent easement acres approved by the BPW	1,966	1,103	184	-	830	500	500
Number of acres protected annually by MET easements	1,578	2,400	1,370	2,438	763	1,000	1,000
Percentage of acres acquired through Program Open Space Stateside that are located within a Targeted Ecological Area	88%	98%	94%	93%	91%	85%	85%
Percent of all easements monitored and under compliance with easement conditions	54%	87%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of MET easements monitored by volunteers	107	146	70	191	145	175	200
Number of MET easements monitored by local land trusts	33	81	249	189	137	200	230
Number of local POS projects	55	67	112	110	138	110	110
Number of community parks and playgrounds projects	28	34	23	31	32	56	30
Number of negotiations conducted annually by LAP	N/A	13	30	48	30	40	38
Percent of approved contracts negotiated by LAP with contract price below the highest appraised value	N/A	80%	90%	88%	80%	80%	80%

Department of Natural Resources

- Obj. 4.5** Restore 2,000 miles of riparian forest buffers (RFBs) in Maryland by 2025.
- Obj. 4.6** 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.
- Obj. 4.7** Work with communities and jurisdictions to conserve existing tree canopy and expand it by 45 acres annually.
- Obj. 4.9** Preserve and restore the protective functions of near shore tidal habitats such as marshes, beaches, dunes, and wetlands.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Acres of RFBs established	486	262	281	263	251	250	250
Miles of RFBs restored in Maryland	42	13	16	15	17	18	18
Cumulative miles restored in Bay Watershed since 1996	1,325	1,338	1,354	1,369	1,386	1,404	1,422
Number of acres covered by Forest Stewardship Plans	15,148	23,537	17,822	17,651	19,112	15,000	15,000
Acres of trees planted in developed areas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	N/A	N/A
Acres of trees planted in rural areas (non-buffer)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	326	300	300
Acres reforested for Forest Conservation Act (FCA) mitigation	902	500	265	312	318	350	350
Acres conserved through FCA long-term protection	4,739	1,935	2,050	2,280	2,040	2,100	2,100
Number of roadside tree permits issued	539	668	706	732	1,043	1,000	1,000
Acres of practices on Municipal Watersheds	100	100	116	130	120	100	100
Acres of restored forest land (afforestation and reforestation)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,136	1,000	1,000
Total acres of management practices implemented	19,684	19,993	22,706	15,964	23,349	18,000	18,000
Number of wildfires suppressed	189	137	134	135	135	150	150
Acres of wildfires suppressed	8,381	544	569	1,733	1,061	2,500	2,500
Square feet of near shore habitat created or protected	N/A	N/A	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000

Goal 5. Diverse outdoor recreation opportunities for Maryland citizens and visitors.

- Obj. 5.1** Annually provide outdoor recreational, historical, and cultural resource experiences for over 10 million visitors to State Parks.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of State Park acres available to the public	137,600	138,000	140,500	140,500	138,015	140,000	144,500
Acres of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	112,826	112,393	112,575	112,575	119,808	119,808	119,808
Number of visitors using parks (millions)	10.70	11.08	10.09	10.30	11.30	11.40	11.45
Number of trail miles available	N/A	N/A	N/A	591	880	890	895
⁴ Number of Park Service interpretive and environmental education program participants	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	96,623	200,000	205,000

Department of Natural Resources

- Obj. 5.2** Annually increase customer service satisfaction rating and improve fiscal sustainability.
- Obj. 5.3** 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.
- Obj. 5.4** 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. 5.5** 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	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Percent of visitors rating their park experience as excellent or above average	N/A	N/A	N/A	87%	87%	90%	90%
Number of hunters checked	21,010	16,482	13,767	13,425	16,561	16,500	16,500
Number of boating inspections	44,893	38,129	31,337	23,271	34,405	35,000	35,000
Number of reportable boating accidents	219	168	123	120	130	152	152
Number of hunting accidents	13	15	24	8	7	13	13
Number of law enforcement officers	164	165	160	172	167	189	204
Number of law enforcement contacts	308,758	307,496	261,250	237,955	294,075	300,000	300,000
Number of law enforcement citations/warnings	21,930	27,157	35,712	35,603	31,489	30,000	30,000
Hours spent on Waterway Patrols	N/A	N/A	30,177	29,517	39,736	35,000	35,000
Hours spent on Public Land Patrols	N/A	N/A	60,894	58,741	59,647	60,000	60,000
Uniform Crime Report data – Part 1 crimes	143	99	245	253	227	200	200
Number of Homeland Security patrol checks	2,587	9,318	7,061	4,589	6,681	7,000	7,000

- Obj. 5.6** Annually increase the percentage of Engineering and Construction projects initiated within the first fiscal year of funding.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of requests for new critical maintenance capital projects on DNR lands	N/A	N/A	N/A	71	92	90	90
Number of requests for new major capital development projects on DNR land (not including critical maintenance projects)	N/A	N/A	N/A	45	27	40	45
Number of projects on DNR lands initiated or completed	349	346	393	260	349	360	365
Percent of major capital development projects on DNR lands initiated or completed	94%	90%	95%	94%	86%	87%	88%

Department of Natural Resources

- Obj. 5.7** 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. 5.8** 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	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number abandoned vessels removed from State waters	19	22	22	19	16	20	21
Potential public access boating sites identified	4	5	5	4	4	4	4
Number of projects provided technical assistance	12	20	22	24	25	25	25
Cumulative miles of water trails established in State	695	695	695	709	719	727	732
Number of waterway projects funded annually	62	74	42	25	35	59	65
Amount of funding awarded for waterway projects (\$)	\$5,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$7,431,000	\$4,740,000	\$4,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$10,000,000
Number of projects incorporating sustainable components	23	39	25	6	24	40	45
Number of public boating sites enhanced or created	49	58	39	23	30	47	52
Number of dredge projects funded annually	9	1	3	1	8	15	12
Amount of funding awarded for dredge projects (\$)	\$989,000	\$362,000	\$943,000	\$97,000	\$1,575,272	\$2,949,847	\$2,000,000
Number of long-term slip leases realized	355	303	340	331	300	330	330
Number of transient slip leases realized	888	635	775	823	550	550	550

Goal 6. Protect Maryland’s ecologically valuable lands and waters through effective project review, including permit applications, and policy strategies.

- Obj. 6.1** Protect high value natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities on public and private lands by reviewing over 2,500 proposed projects and permits, on an annual basis, to minimize environmental harm and preserve investments in public lands.
- Obj. 6.2** Increase the number of State and local governments prepared for the impacts of future storm-events, shoreline changes and sea level rise.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of reviews for projects on public lands	N/A	N/A	293	247	268	270	270
Number of external permits and projects reviewed for impacts	N/A	N/A	2,290	2,340	2,405	2,300	2,300
⁵ Total number of proactive measures developed that afford additional protection to Maryland's natural resources	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	50	40	40
Number of project proposals reviewed for impacts to threatened and endangered species and other species of concern	2,000	2,361	1,881	2,181	2,848	3,000	3,000
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	N/A	2	4	8	12	16

Department of Natural Resources

NOTES

- ¹ Sediment numbers have changed based on new sediment reduction efficiencies for cover crops; data provided by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Beginning in 2017 cover crops will be assigned a sediment reduction credit and those values will be reflected in upcoming reports. That credit is currently being discussed under the Bay Program's Best Management Practice (BMP) Expert Panel process.
- ² Measure adjusted to add 'modified' projects.
- ³ The 2015 value for exploitation fraction is an estimate.
- ⁴ Fiscal year 2015 data represents January - June 2014, when tracking commenced.
- ⁵ This measure reflects two measures from the fiscal year 2016 MFR that have been combined.