

April 5, 2016

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Dave Goshorn grew up in Towson, Maryland. He received his Bachelors degree in biology from Bucknell University in 1984 and his Ph.D. in Marine Biology from the University of Delaware in 1989. He spent the next three years at the University of Georgia Marine Institute on Sapelo Island, Ga. as a post-doctoral faculty member conducting research on juvenile flounders and drums.

In 1992, Dave came to work for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Service as a biologist in the Striped Bass Project. In 1995 he moved into DNR's Resource Assessment Service as Chief of the Living Resource Assessment Program, responsible for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation restoration, fish community assessments, Coastal Bays monitoring, and harmful algal bloom response. In 2003, Dave was named as Director of DNR's Resource Assessment Service where he managed programs responsible for the monitoring and assessment of all state waters, the Maryland Geological Survey, and the Power Plant Assessment Program. In August 2007, Dave was named Director of DNR's newly formed Office for a Sustainable Future, which was charged with moving Maryland toward a more sustainable future by identifying and helping to implement environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable practices and processes into both DNR programs, as well as programs cutting across all Maryland state agencies. Most recently, Dave was appointed as DNR Assistant Secretary for Aquatic Resources in May, 2013. In this role, Dave is responsible the water-related side of the agency, specifically managing the state's fisheries, monitoring and evaluating the health of all the state's waters, restoring the Chesapeake and Coastal bays, managing boating related issues, and supervising the policy development and review of environmental programs and projects.

Dave lives with his wife, Cynthia, and their three sons, Ben (16), Alex (14), and Chris (14) in Arnold, Maryland.