



CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION 1999 BAY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Chesapeake Bay Commission is a legislative body created to advise the members of the General Assemblies of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania on matters of Bay-wide concern. Since 1980, the tri-state commission has provided advice, support and leadership in environmental policy to the region's lawmakers. Issues considered by its members are as wide-ranging and complex as the Bay itself, delving into matters of air, land, water, living resources, and the integrated management of all of them.

As a member of the Chesapeake Executive Council, the Commission brings to the Chesapeake Bay Program an inter-jurisdictional perspective on policy issues that balances the more specific interests of the jurisdiction's executive agencies. Its broad-based nature makes it an excellent forum for generating discussions and building consensus on regional policy issues. The Commission periodically sponsors legislation through its members which supports the policy matters acted upon by the Bay Program.

Twenty-one members from three states define the Commission's identity and its workload. Fifteen are legislators, five each from Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, who are responsible for identifying the environmental needs in the watershed, hearing the wishes of their constituents, and determining actions that make better stewards of us all. Completing their ranks are the governors of each state, represented by their cabinet members who are directly responsible for managing their states' natural resources, as well as three citizen representatives who bring with them a unique perspective and expertise.

In the 19 years since its inception, the Chesapeake Bay Commission has made remarkable strides in learning the complex workings of an enormous estuary, determining federal and state actions that are needed to sustain its living resources, and persuading their colleagues in the General Assemblies and Executive Branch to take actions.

Laws heralded nationwide for their environmental foresight are products of the Commission's work — the phosphate detergent bans, commercial and recreational fishing licenses, nutrient management planning, land-use legislation, ballast water management, and bans on the use of tributyltin, to name a few.

The Commission also serves at the national level, acting as a unified voice to advise Congress on national legislation and budget initiatives that will benefit the Bay region, and the nation as a whole. On numerous

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION 1999 BAY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

occasions, the Chesapeake Bay Commission has coordinated the input of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia in order to secure passage of federal legislation integral to the Bay restoration effort.

THE DRAFTING OF *CHESAPEAKE 2000*

In 1999, the Commission concentrated its efforts on the drafting of *Chesapeake 2000*. Serving as Chair of the Drafting Team for the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Commission worked along with its Bay Program partners to identify initiatives that needed to be carried forward from the past, current programs that must be continued and future projects to pursue. The interests of the states, the District of Columbia, the EPA and other federal partners and the broad range of stakeholders involved were all considered as we coordinated the multi-jurisdictional drafting process.

The Commission served both as writer and policy analyst, always attempting to identify initiatives that would lead us further along in our efforts to promote the Bay's protection and long-term restoration.

The restoration of water quality, the protection of living resources and the improved management of growth have been central to the Commission's focus. The members have strongly promoted the protection of submerged aquatic vegetation, the reduction of sediment, the encouragement of community watershed initiatives, the management of blue crabs, while all the while working to reduce nutrient pollution.

The members have been retrospective in their consideration of a new Bay Agreement. The Commission has analyzed progress in implementing the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement in order to identify those actions needed beyond the year 2000. It has examined what has been accomplished and determined that more must be done. When gaps have been identified, the Commission has sought for solutions for inclusion in the draft Agreement.

Over the coming months, the Commission, along with its partners in the Chesapeake Bay Program, will seek public comment on *Chesapeake 2000*. It will be critical to hear from both its supporters and its opponents so that a document can be crafted that reflects the interests of the people.

It is only with the support of our 15 million "neighbors" within the Chesapeake Bay basin that we can guarantee a better Bay. The health of our local waters, like the quality and character of our neighborhoods, depends on our continued stewardship.

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION 1999 BAY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1999 COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Chairman

Hon. Arthur D. Hershey
PA House of Representatives

Vice-Chairmen

Hon. Jerrauld C. Jones
Virginia House of Delegates

Hon. Brian E. Frosh
Maryland State Senate

#

Hon. Robert S. Bloxom
Virginia House of Delegates

Hon. Bill Bolling
Senate of Virginia

Hon. Russ Fairchild
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Hon. Bernie Fowler
Maryland Citizen Representative

Hon. Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr.
Senate of Virginia

Hon. John R. Griffin
Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Hon. Irvine B. Hill
Virginia Citizen Representative

Hon. Charles A. McClenahan
Maryland House of Delegates

Hon. W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.
Virginia House of Delegates

Hon. James M. Seif
Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Hon. J. Lowell Stoltzfus

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION 1999 BAY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Senate of Maryland

Hon. Richard A. Tilghman
Senate of Pennsylvania

Hon. Michael H. Weir
Maryland House of Delegates

Hon. Noah W. Wenger
Senate of Pennsylvania

Hon. George B. Wolff
Pennsylvania Citizen Representative

Hon. John F. Wood, Jr.
Maryland House of Delegates

Hon. John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Secretary, Virginia Natural Resources

Hon. Peter J. Zug
Pennsylvania House of Representatives