



**Briefing for the Chesapeake Bay Commission
Maryland's Fisheries Enforcement
September 5, 2014**

Deputy Secretary Frank Dawson



The Maryland Natural Resources Police

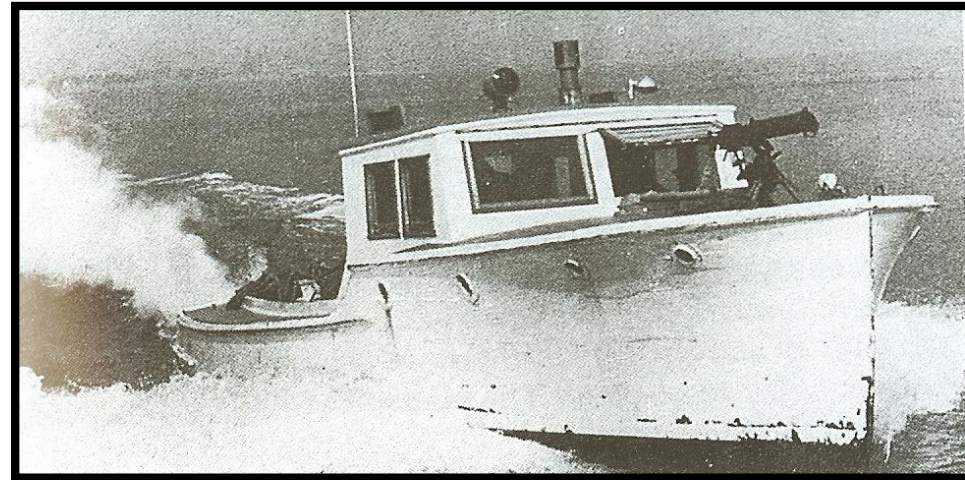
The Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP) is the enforcement arm of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). With an authorized strength of 245 officers and a dedicated staff of civilian and volunteer personnel, the NRP provides a variety of services, in addition to conservation and boating law enforcement duties throughout the State of Maryland. These services include maritime homeland security, search and rescue, boating and hunting safety education, and 24/7 information and communications services. The NRP is the only police force, aside from the Maryland State Police, that has statewide jurisdiction.





History of the Maryland Natural Resources Police

The Maryland Natural Resources Police is a descendant of both the State Oyster Police, created in 1868, and the Office of the State Game Warden, created in 1896. In 2005, law enforcement duties on DNR public lands were transferred from the State Forest and Park Service to the Natural Resources Police. A total of 91 former law enforcement Rangers were added to the ranks of the NRP, bringing the total sworn force to 244.



1940 – The Patrol Vessel “Venus” armed with a 30 caliber machine gun on the bow, patrols the Chesapeake Bay for Oyster Enforcement.

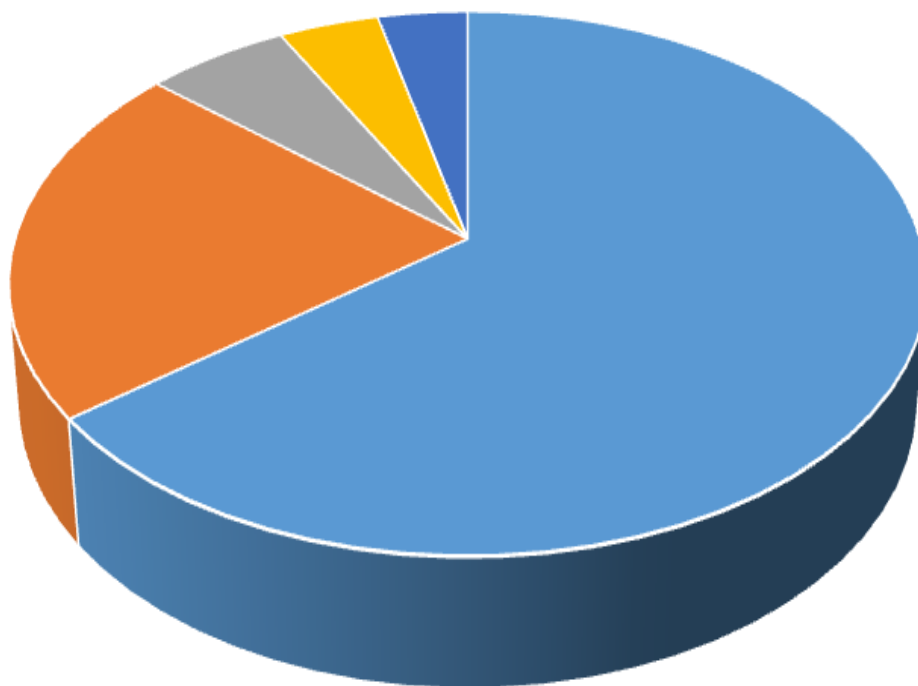


MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



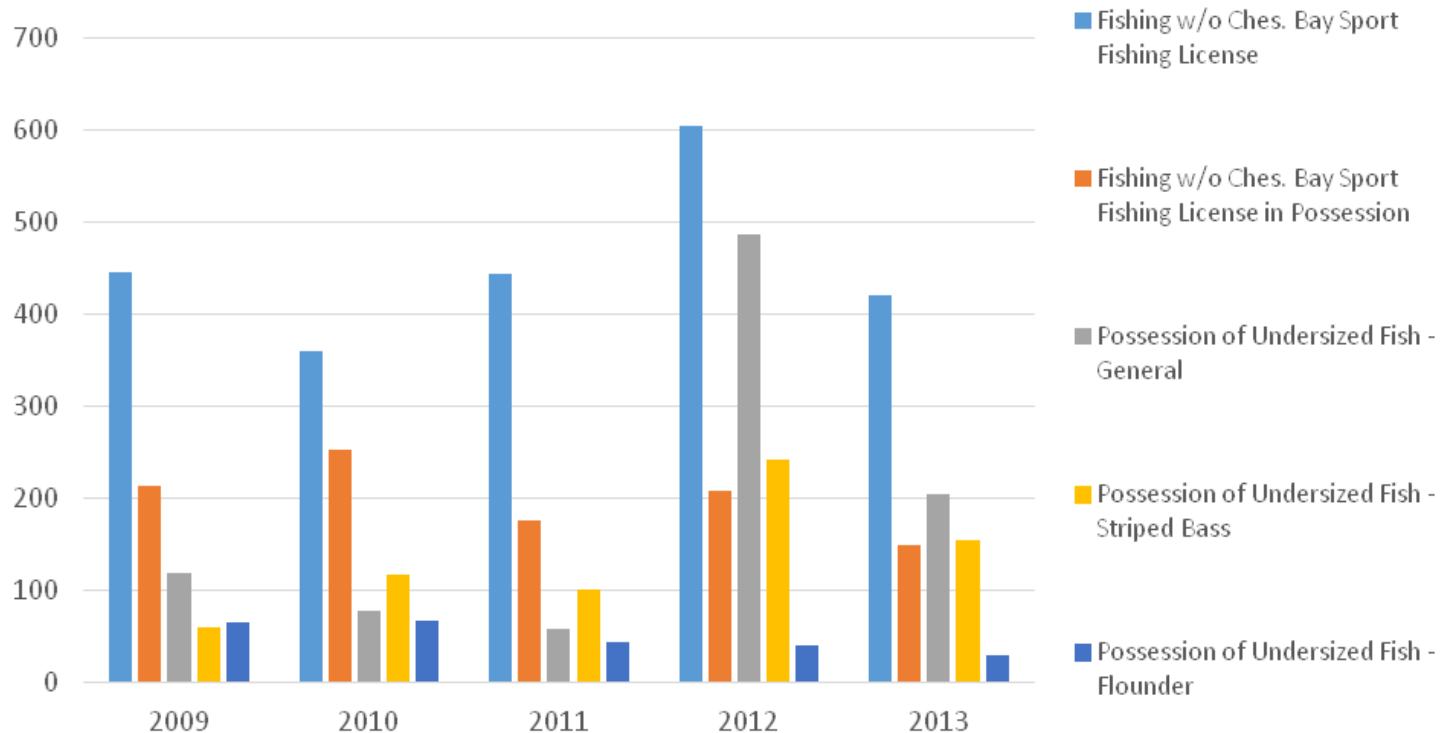
Top 5 Non-Tidal Fishing Violations 2009-2013

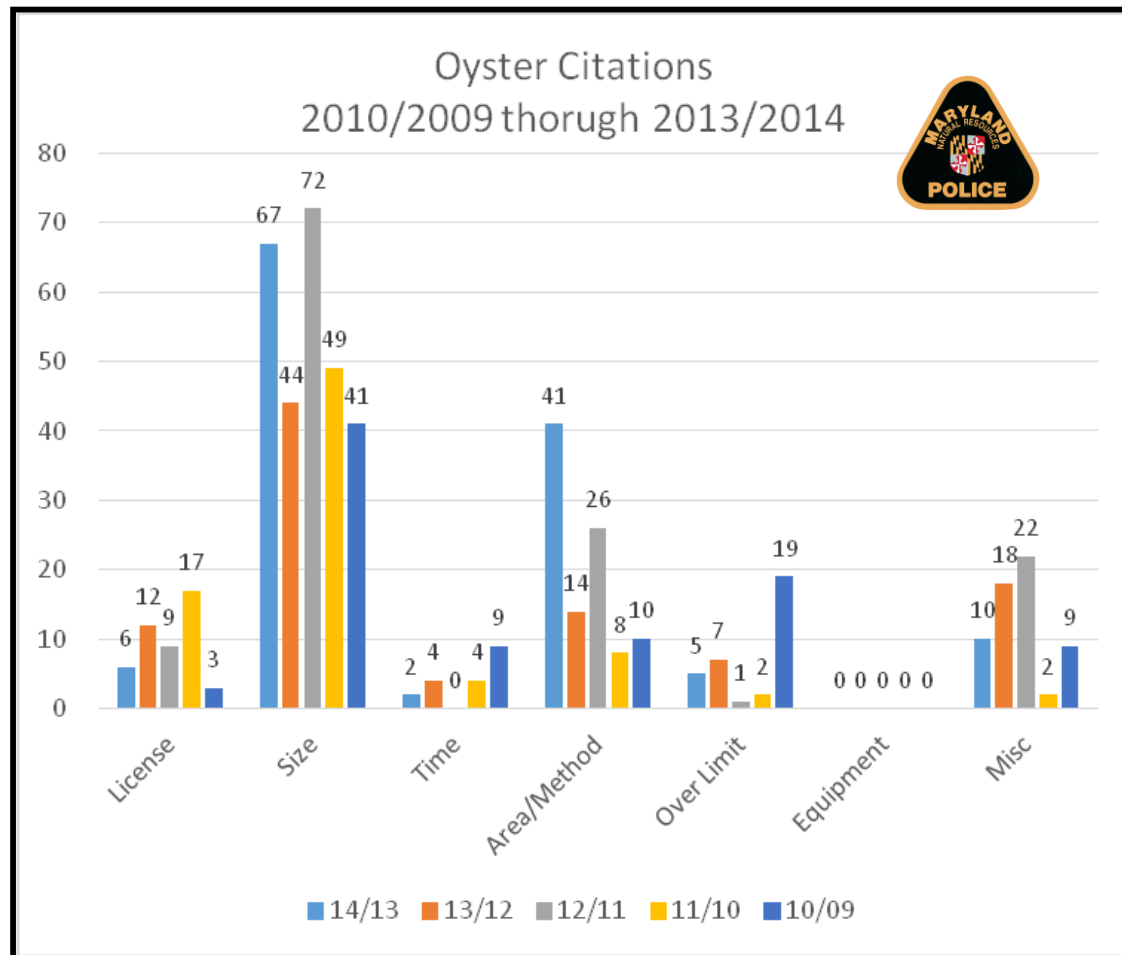


- W/O License
- W/O License in Possession
- Possess Fresh Water Fish Species - Closed Season
- Exceed Daily Creel limit
- Violation in Special Trout Management Area



Top 5 Tidal Fishing Violations 2009-2013







NRP Stand-Alone Court Days (Established in 17 Jurisdictions)

County for Stand-Alone Court Date	Approximate date that this was established
Allegany	February 2009
Anne Arundel	February 2011
Baltimore County	September 2013
Baltimore City	No stand-alone date
Calvert	January 2012
Caroline	February 2009
Carroll	January 2014
Cecil	No stand-alone date.
Charles	January 2012
Dorchester	February 2009
Frederick	No stand-alone date
Garrett	February 2009

County for Stand-Alone Court Date	Approximate date that this was established
Howard	November 2014
Harford	No stand-alone date
Kent	February 2009
Montgomery	No stand-alone date
Queen Anne's	February 2009
Prince George's	No stand-alone date
St. Mary's	January 2012
Somerset	February 2009
Talbot	February 2009
Washington	No stand-alone date
Wicomico	February 2009
Worcester	May 2011



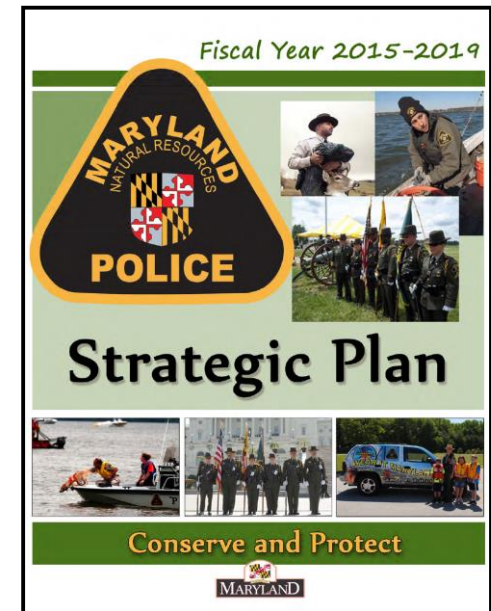
Natural Resources Police Strategic Plan

2014-2019

The report of “Maryland Natural Resources Police Level of Service Standards”, served as the catalyst for the Maryland Natural Resources Police Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan

- The Plan is a comprehensive blueprint that includes both long-term goals and objectives and shorter-term strategies and projects to implement those goals identified in the Level of Service Standards Report.
- The Plan documents the NRP mission, priorities and commitment to its long-term goals that guide decisions and focus efforts to achieve those results.





New Technology

Maritime Law Enforcement Information Network (MLEIN)

- Through the use of federal funding, the NRP has created an integrated network of camera and radar equipment to enhance maritime homeland security, while concurrently improving national security, public safety and increasing conservation law enforcement over the vast Chesapeake Bay area.
- In order to effectively coordinate responses to maritime incidents, MLEIN allows the NRP and other federal, state, and local agencies to share information on a real-time basis.

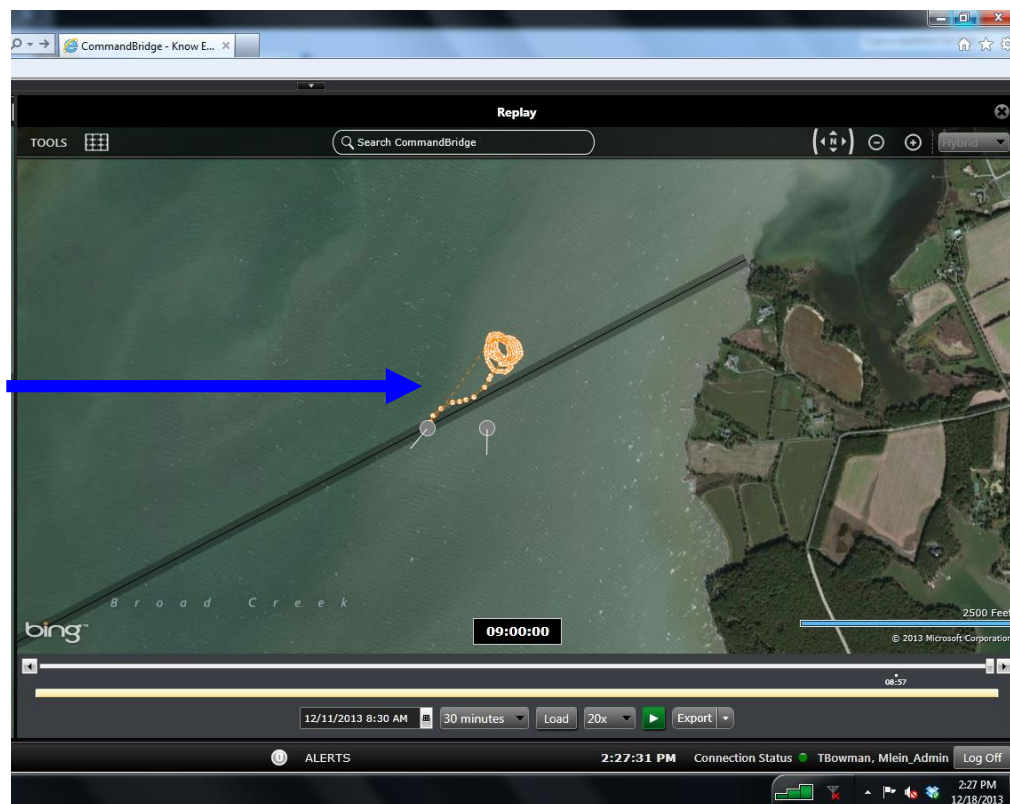


New Technology

MLEIN

Results:

- During November - December 2013, NRP used MLEIN on targeted conservation law enforcement for oyster violations; More specifically, Power Dredging in a Sanctuary violation, **Power Dredging in a hand tong only area.** & Undersize Oyster harvesting violation.





Replay

Search CommandBridge

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11/25/2013 8:00 AM 30 minutes Load 4x Export

APPLICATIONS HELP 11:41:53 AM Connection Status TBowman, Mlein_Admin Log Off

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Detection of watermen's vessel encroaching on an oyster sanctuary in Tangier Sound. Subjects cited for poaching. Seven bushels of oysters are returned to the sanctuary.

District Judge Paula Price ordered the vessel's captain to pay a \$1,000 fine — \$550 above the preset fine — and the mate, to pay a \$450 fine. She gave them 30 days to appeal. MLEIN assisted in this case prosecution.



New Technology

MLEIN Results

INCIDENT TYPE	DATE OF CASE	LOCATION (Include Body of Water)	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTION TAKEN
Oyster Sanctuary Violation	11/25/13	Tangier Sound	Detection of two watermen encroaching on an oyster sanctuary in Tangier Sound. Subjects cited for poaching charges. Seven bushels of oysters are returned to the sanctuary.
Oystering in Prohibited Area	12/11/13	Choptank River	Seizure of 20 bushels of oysters and charged two watermen on the Choptank River with dredging on submerged lands reserved for tonging, dredging in an area reserved for hand tonging, improper tagging of an oyster container, and harvesting oysters more than 200 feet within prohibited area with prohibited gear.
Oystering in Prohibited Area	12/20/13	Choptank River	Detection of two watermen on the Choptank River harvesting oysters with a power dredge in a sail-dredge area and harvesting oysters more than 200 feet inside a prohibited area with prohibited gear.
Oyster Sanctuary Violation	3/20/14	Tangier Sound	Two Crisfield watermen charged with harvesting oysters from a Tangier Sound Oyster Sanctuary in Somerset County. Using MLEIN, officer's watched on their laptops as a commercial boat enters the sanctuary and begins dredging for oysters. As an NRP patrol boat approaches, the commercial boat motors out of the sanctuary. Officers stop the boat and order the watermen to return to the sanctuary more than four bushels of oysters.