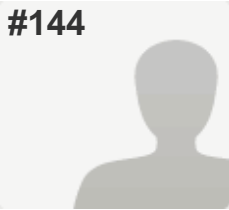


#144



**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)

**Started:** Monday, July 10, 2017 9:36:12 AM

**Last Modified:** Monday, July 10, 2017 9:40:16 AM

**Time Spent:** 00:04:04

---

**PAGE 2: About Agencies Scheduled for Study**

---

**Q1: Please share any comments, suggestions or concerns you may have about these agencies. Please note your responses will be posted online and may be included in a Committee report.**

Natural Resources, Department of

This agency is, in most cases, staffed by professional individuals who are uniquely similar in their dedication to the natural resources of this state regardless of the area of the agency they may be assigned to. Whether it is land and water resources; marine resources; wildlife management; freshwater and saltwater fisheries management; information technology, titling and registration, outreach, support services, or law enforcement, the individuals are dedicated to their careers and believe in what they do. Most of them with few exceptions have chosen this agency and their jobs as a career. This is an agency that you want to be a part of because you have the opportunity to make a difference in something that is important to you, and important to a large constituent base of hunters, fisherman, commercial fisherman, business interests, boaters, geologists, hydrologists, and non-consumptive users, all of whom are interested in the vast natural resources available to the citizens of this state. This is true now, just as it was when the agency didn't know if it would survive budget cuts without having to conduct a reduction in force. Older employees took buyouts, some retired, and the agency was left with a younger base of employees to manage the various functions. The backgrounds, education, and sporting activities of these employees uniquely qualified them for what they do today. A little research on-line showed that under Director Taylor's leadership state appropriated funds for the agency have increased from \$14,500,000 to a current level of \$28,500,000. This is still short of the high point which was more than \$30,000,000, and less than what is necessary to fully fund the needs of the agency. His ability to do this comes in part because of his focus on developing working relationships and taking every opportunity to explain each and every program within the agency to promote program knowledge and justify increased funding and

awareness. This includes all of his working relationships including the general assembly, other state and federal agencies, and conservation and law enforcement organizations. He has focused on staff development promoting the implementation of new career paths in at least 4 divisions that I'm aware of, with a focus on the most important part of the agency, the employees. He has placed a focus on providing more access to public lands, and making the laws and regulations of the agency more easily understood while balancing science and resource needs. In addition to creating a balance between constituent needs and science, the need for reasonable regulations, and the need to enhance protection of unique resources, he and the deputy director for marine resources, Robert Boyles, are also challenged with supporting and enhancing a commercial fishery, and industry that involves fish, shrimp, and shellfish while responsibly managing that resource for future generations. He has strived to get a whole new generation of youth and adults involved in the outdoors through increased outreach programs and services, and increased access to public lakes and acquisition of public lands. He has focused more attention on wildlife and freshwater fisheries, law enforcement, land and water resources, and information technology, the latter of which is in a major transformation by the new director of IT, Mark Litz. I believe this transformation will move the agency into a new era that was not previously possible. No agency is without problems, but this director has deputy directors that he supports and allows to pursue their needs within the broader goals and objectives of the agency. He may very well be challenged by the need for improvements, but he always focuses on doing the next right thing. He provides access for deputy directors and staff while providing them with the latitude to be creative, and set goals for their respective areas of responsibility, provide feedback, and help them achieve what they need. He does this in part by being directly involved in the day to day operations of the agency, taking every opportunity to promote the agency and it's widely varying responsibilities, being available to the public, policy makers, employees, and always keeping the needs of everyday constituents in his mind as he manages the agency. Finally, I will note that this agency is significant in the number of individuals that it touches through the various missions of the divisions, including hundreds of thousands of hunters and fisherman; hundreds of thousands of boaters; commercial fisherman; 180,000 or more youth through outreach programs; and untold numbers of non-

consumptive users.

PAGE 3: There are three questions seeking general information.

Q2: What is your age?	45-54 years old
Q3: Which best describes your current role?	State employee
Q4: In which county do you live?	Respondent skipped this question