

Natural Resources

The FY 2002 adopted budget for Natural Resources agencies contains no GF changes. However, Executive Order 74 reductions of \$8.5 million and \$2.3 million from a 3 percent across-the-board cut are contained in Central Appropriations for distribution to Natural Resources agencies, as shown in the table below. Actions for achieving across-the-board savings are not specified in the budget.

The 2 percent reduction of \$654,583, which the introduced budget proposed transferring to the general fund from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, was restored to the Department in the approved budget.

Natural Resources Central Appropriation Reductions			
Agency	E.O. 74 Actions	3% Across- the-Board	Total
Secretary's Office	\$ 0	\$ 16,583	\$ 16,583
Conservation & Recreation	6,820,000	960,571	7,780,571
Chippokes Plantation	45,000	7,650	52,650
Marine Resources	201,025	146,648	347,673
Game & Inland Fisheries	0	0	0
Chesapeake Bay Local Asst.	0	44,886	44,886
Historic Resources	132,065	40,811	172,876
Environmental Quality	1,257,000	1,058,740	2,315,740
Natural History Museum	<u>0</u>	<u>68,386</u>	<u>68,386</u>
Total	\$ 8,455,090	\$ 2,344,275	\$ 10,799,365

- **Dept. of Conservation and Recreation**
 - ***Water Quality Improvement Fund.*** Language indicates there will be no deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund in FY 2002. The Comptroller had reserved \$2.7 million in January 2001 for this purpose in accordance with the provisions of §10.1-2128 of the Code of Virginia. In preparing the bill to amend FY 2002, the executive department reverted the \$2.7 million to the general fund balance.
 - ***Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund.*** Provides \$444,243 NGF in FY 2002 from proceeds from sale of special license plates to be distributed in accordance with the recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee to projects to restore the Chesapeake Bay.
 - ***James River State Park.*** Language authorizes the Department to accept a gift from the Nature Conservancy of land adjacent to the James River State Park.
- **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**
 - ***Big Survey Loan.*** Language requires the Game Department to repay \$1.0 million towards the loan authorized by the 2000 General Assembly for acquisition of the Big Survey property. By eliminating the transfer of funds out of the Game Protection Fund, as was proposed in the introduced budget bill, the Department will have adequate funds to repay the loan from the state treasury as originally approved.
 - ***Boat Registration Fees.*** Language requires the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries to prepare an analysis of the revenue derived from current boat registration fees and increase those fees up to nine dollars per certificate if the amount of fees collected is not sufficient to cover the costs of the registration program and related activities.
- **Marine Resources Commission**
 - ***Marine Life Management Program Funds.*** Language clarifies that funds in the Marine Life Management Program may be carried forward at the end of the fiscal year because the activities provided by the program are seasonal and will not be concluded by June 30 each year.