



# ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES CRIMES UNIT

Second Annual Report  
October 1, 2024- September 30, 2025



Photo Credit: Department of Natural Resources, "Blue on a Lid," by Joe Subolefsky, 2016 Photo Contest Results



## Dear Marylanders,

Maryland's natural resources are among our most valuable assets. Since taking office three years ago, I've made it a top priority to protect these resources and hold accountable those who put them in jeopardy. As your Attorney General, I am committed to protecting Maryland's environment and resources from pollution and the harmful impacts of climate change – ensuring that you and your families can breathe clean air and drink clean water for generations to

come.

In 2023, the General Assembly established the Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit (ENRCU) as a part of the Office of the Attorney General. The ENRCU continues to take action against both individuals and corporations for violating laws meant to protect public health, the environment, and our State's precious resources. We investigate and prosecute criminal violations of environmental and natural resources laws throughout the State of Maryland, each case reinforcing that environmental violations have serious consequences.

Last year, the ENRCU secured significant victories across Maryland. We indicted and convicted three individuals for the illegal disposal of hazardous materials in Baltimore City. In a separate case, we obtained a conviction against an individual who illegally dumped and abandoned hundreds of thousands of scrap tires in Allegany County. These cases – and others like them – demonstrate the ENRCU's commitment to prosecuting crimes that directly harm Maryland's communities, natural resources, and public health.

This report highlights the progress we've made over the past year and outlines our goals for strengthening environmental protections in Maryland.

This work is generational. When we protect Maryland's environment, we're preserving not just today's air and water, but the water our children will drink and the air our grandchildren will breathe. This report shows how we're meeting that responsibility – through enforcement, accountability, and environmental justice for all Marylanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony G. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**Anthony G. Brown**

**Second Annual Report of the  
Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit  
Maryland Office of the Attorney General**  
*October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025*

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the Second Annual Report of the Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit (“ENRCU” or “Unit”), provided pursuant to a statutory requirement that an annual report be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly that includes “all the activities of the Unit and any actions taken by the Department of the Environment or the Department of Natural Resources in response to findings and recommendations of the Unit.”

Over the course of the last year, the Unit has successfully prosecuted a wide range of cases to include the illegal disposal of thousands of scrap tires, discharges of oil and other pollutants, the illegal dumping and burial of large amounts of solid waste, the falsification of documents and the unlawful abandonment of hazardous waste. To fulfill the ENRCU’s annual reporting requirement and to be transparent about the work being performed, this report strives to provide as much information as possible regarding these efforts over the past year.



## THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES CRIMES UNIT

The Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit within the Maryland Office of the Attorney General (“OAG”) is responsible for the coordination, investigation, and prosecution of criminal environmental and natural resources violations and other associated criminal charges throughout the State of Maryland. The Unit is an investigative and prosecutorial team under the direction of the Criminal Division of the OAG, and functions independently of the Maryland Department of the Environment (“MDE”) and the Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”).

The Unit complements the missions of both MDE and DNR, sharing the common goals of protecting Maryland’s air, land, water, and natural resources by investigating and pursuing criminal cases throughout the State for violations of environmental, public health, and natural resources laws, regulations, and permits. Criminal enforcement against corporate and individual offenders is a necessary and effective deterrent by holding serious violators accountable for egregious environmental and natural resource violations.

The ENRCU is staffed by Chief Counsel, a senior Assistant Attorney General, and two Assistant Attorneys General. Additionally, there is a Chief Investigator, an investigator, and a paralegal, all of whom support the work of the Unit. The attorneys and investigators have a diverse set of skills and backgrounds that include standard criminal prosecution and criminal law enforcement investigative techniques. The Unit combines those professional skills with specialized knowledge of environmental and natural resources laws and regulations. In addition, the ENRCU partners with both the Maryland State Police and Natural Resources Police, as well as with other local, state, and federal agencies as part of its criminal investigations.



## THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES CRIMES UNIT: BACKGROUND

In the early 1980's, the State created a Hazardous Waste Strike Force to investigate and prosecute hazardous waste cases in response to the emerging concern over these types of crimes. This Strike Force later became the Maryland Environmental Crimes Unit which served as a part of the Attorney General's Criminal Division. The Unit worked in cooperation with MDE and the Maryland State Police ("MSP"). In 1991, the OAG entered into an agreement with MDE and the MSP, formally establishing a Unit staffed by assistant attorneys general, MSP troopers, and MDE inspectors. The goal was to combine the prosecutorial authority and resources of the OAG with the investigative and law enforcement capabilities of the MSP, with the scientific and regulatory expertise of MDE.



In 2023, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 874, codified as State Government Article ("SG") § 6-701 et seq., that expanded the existing Environmental Crimes Unit of the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division and renamed and codified the new unit as the "Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit." The law, effective October 1, 2023, created explicit statutory authority to investigate and prosecute cases involving violations of the State's environmental and natural resources laws and any other criminal offenses discovered during the course of an investigation.

Since its codification, the Unit continues to work towards enhanced collaboration with the Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP), a public safety agency with statewide authority to enforce hunting, fishing, boating, and criminal law on all waterways and land, both public and private.



Photo credit: Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Police, Patrol.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES CRIMES UNIT: AUTHORITY

The statutory function of the ENRCU is to investigate and prosecute cases against persons believed to be in violation of State criminal environmental and natural resources laws, as well as to investigate and prosecute any other criminal offense(s) discovered during the course of an investigation. SG § 6-702 (a)(2). The Unit is authorized to act “with the full powers, rights, privileges, and duties of a State’s Attorney,” to include the use of grand juries in any county. SG § 6-702 (a)(3). Additional statutory authority includes the ability to issue subpoenas to produce “telephone, business, government, or corporate records or documents,” for the limited purpose of furthering ongoing criminal investigations. SG § 6-703 (a)(1).

Typical ENRCU cases may involve:

- Illegal discharge of pollutants into Maryland waters;
- Illegal discharge of septic and sewage waste;
- Illegal, unpermitted installation or modification of septic systems;
- Illegal accumulation, storage, abandonment, or disposal of hazardous waste;

- Illegal discharge or disposal of oil;
- Illegal open dumping, accumulation, and burial of solid waste, and associated criminal litter charges;
- Illegal creation and operation of unpermitted landfills;
- Unlawful transport, storage, and disposal of scrap tires;
- Improper handling and disposal of special medical waste;
- Wetlands violations;
- Open burning violations;
- Frauds associated with permitting and reporting requirements and payment of excise taxes and fees;
- Falsification of required reports, forms, certificates, applications, and permits;
- Hunting, fishing, and wildlife violations; and
- Failure to comply with required natural resources licensing requirements.

The applicable statutes and regulations can be found in the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (“EN”); Natural Resources Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (“NR”); the Criminal Law Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (“CR”); and the Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”).



Photo credit: Department of Natural Resources, striped bass by MDDNRfish.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES CRIMES UNIT: OPERATING PROCEDURES

The ENRCU receives information about possible criminal activity from various sources, including MDE Administrations, DNR, NRP, citizen complaints, other governmental and law enforcement agencies, or from the ENRCU's own investigation initiatives. All referrals are tracked by the ENRCU, noting the source, location, and nature of the alleged violations.

Information about potential criminal violations is initially reviewed by an ENRCU attorney and investigator. Matters deemed potentially suitable for prosecution are investigated. These investigations may include surveillance, subpoenas, search warrants, witness interviews, and other tools. The duration of criminal investigations depends on the nature and complexity of each case.

Investigations are, at times, conducted in collaboration with various law enforcement partners, including, but not limited to, MSP and NRP. The ENRCU supports its law enforcement partners through investigation-specific collaboration and guidance, including assisting in the preparation of investigatory documents like search warrants and subpoenas. The ENRCU views its law enforcement partners as members of the prosecution team and believes that early collaboration leads to better results.

When determining whether to pursue criminal enforcement for violations of Maryland's environmental and natural resources laws and regulations, factors the ENRCU considers include:

- Whether there is significant environmental harm and/or long-term effects on the public health;
- Whether there is evidence of intentionally deceptive, misleading, or fraudulent conduct;
- Whether the violator was operating outside the regulatory scheme;
- Whether the violation(s) were an isolated incident or a pattern of conduct;
- Whether the violator has a prior criminal record or a history of civil/regulatory enforcement action; and
- A demonstrated need for deterrence.

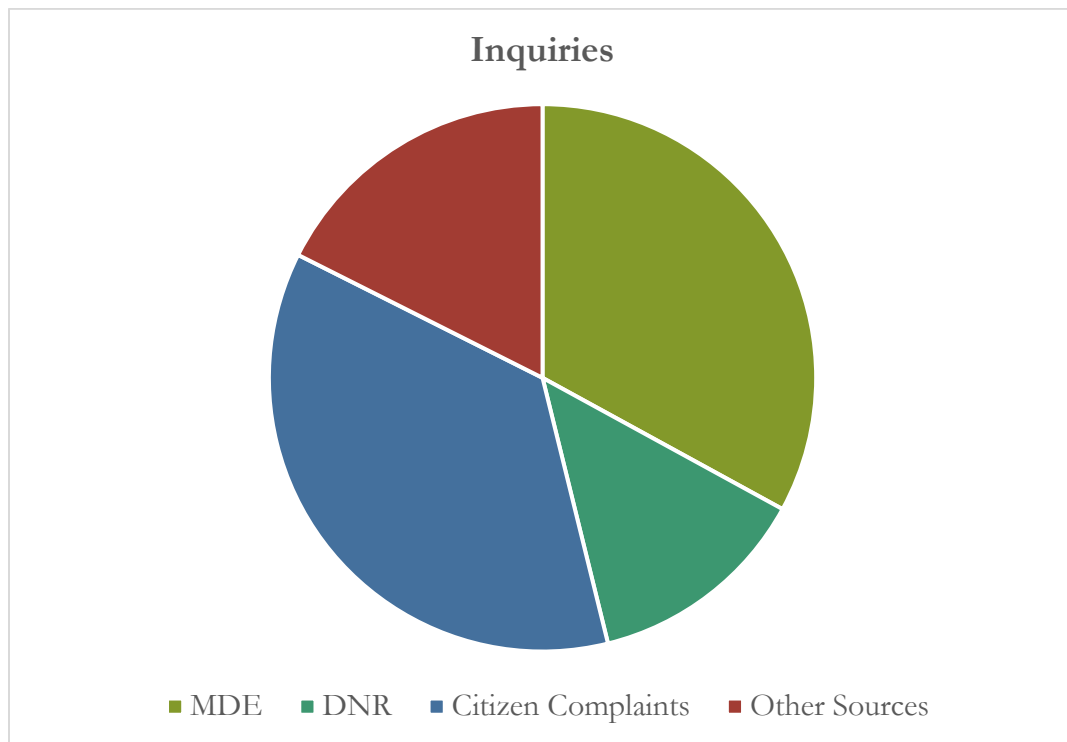
If the ENCRU determines criminal prosecution is appropriate, charges are filed by way of criminal information or by grand jury indictment. The Unit handles all criminal cases through trial as well as any post-trial issues that may arise, such as violations of probation.

Resolution of cases can include the following:

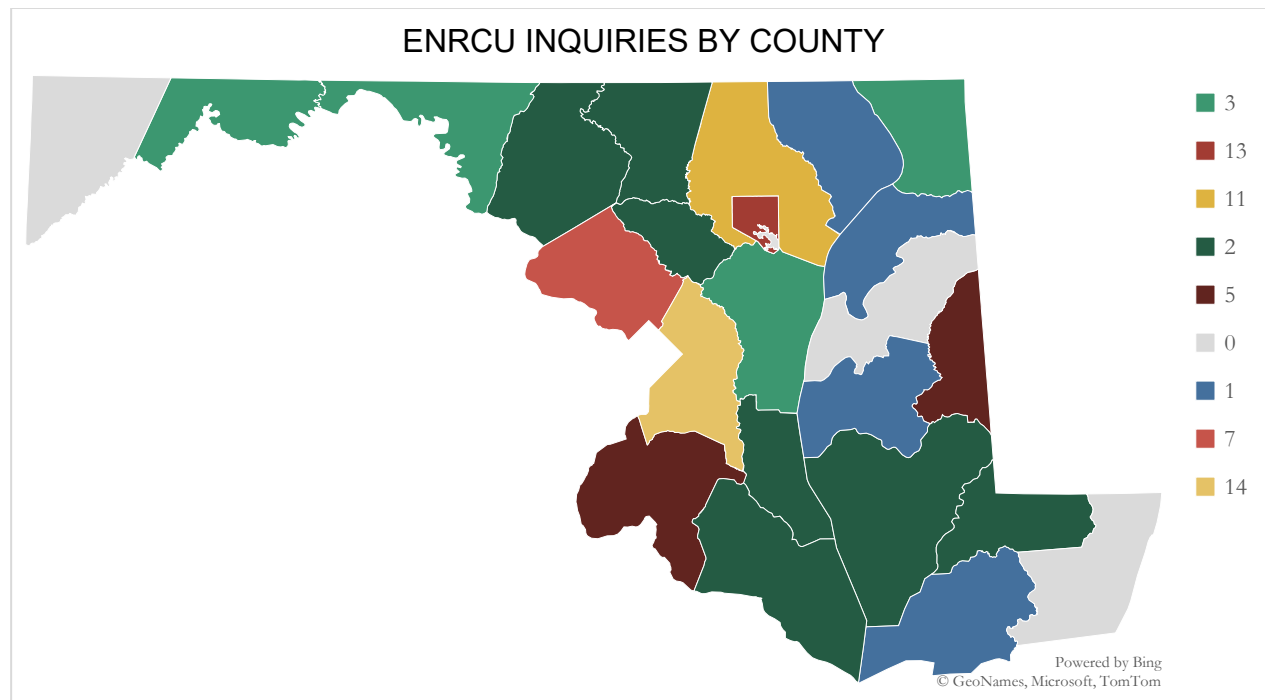
- The imposition of jail time, either active incarceration or suspended jail sentences;
- The imposition of criminal fines, often times payable to environmental funds overseen by MDE;
- Implementation of a Supplemental Environmental Project (“SEP”);
- Supervised or unsupervised terms probation;
- Orders of restitution; and
- Community service hours.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES CRIMES UNIT: ENFORCEMENT

During the reporting period, the Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit received a total of 91 new inquiries. Thirty of these inquiries came from MDE, 12 were from DNR, 33 originated from citizen complaints, and 16 came from other sources.



Inquiries originated from nearly all 24 Maryland municipalities, with the majority originating from Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince George's County.



Of the 91 inquiries, the ENRCU initiated 47 investigations. Some investigations were closed due to insufficient information, some were consolidated with other related matters, some were readily resolved, and others were referred to other, more appropriate, agencies to handle. Twenty-five investigations remained open at the end of the reporting period. The duration of an investigation can depend on available resources and the complexity of the investigation.

In the Unit's second year, criminal charges were filed, prosecutions were pending, or prosecutions were completed by the ENRCU in 20 separate cases, for a total of 368 counts filed throughout the State in multiple jurisdictions. The ENRCU prosecuted 19 of these cases, while one case remained pending as of September 30, 2025. Of the completed prosecutions, 17 criminal defendants were convicted of 77 separate criminal counts. These criminal convictions included:

- Discharge of a Controlled Hazardous Substance in violation of EN § 7-265;
- Discharge of Oil in violation of EN § 4-410;
- Unlawful Disposal of Scrap Tires for Monetary Gain in violation of EN § 9-228;
- Operation of a Scrap Tire Collection Facility without a License in violation of EN § 9-228;
- Criminal Litter over 500 pounds or 216 cubic yards, in violation of CR § 10-110;
- Discharge of a Pollutant in violation of EN § 9-322;
- Solid Waste Nuisance in violation of COMAR 26.04.07.03; and
- Fisheries License Requirements in violation of COMAR 08.02.13.06.

Resolution of these cases collectively resulted in suspended jail sentences totally over 20 years, with 105 days of active incarceration imposed; terms of probation totaling 45 years; and court-imposed criminal fines totaling \$483,500, with \$24,500 in fines to be paid. Penalties also included 535 hours of court-ordered community service, and restitution in the amount of \$309,982.50.

10/1/24- 9/30/25 TOTALS	ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE				CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE	COMAR Title 08 Subtitle 02	TOTAL
	Title 4	Title 9	Title 9	Title 7	Title 10	Title 08	
	Subtitle 4	Subtitle 2	Subtitle 3	Subtitle 2	Subtitle 10	Subtitle 02	
Number of Convictions Obtained***	2	11	17	7	1	39	77
Imprisonment Time Ordered (Years)	1 year	5 years	2 years, 364 days	11 years	1 year		20 years, 364 days
Imprisonment Time To Be Served	60 days	45 days					105 days
Probation Ordered (Years)	5 years	9 years	3 years	11 years	3 years	14 years	45 years
Total Criminal Fines Ordered	\$50,000	\$120,000	\$203,000	\$100,000	\$4500.00	\$6,000	\$483,500
Criminal Fines To Be Paid	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$3,000		\$4500.00	\$6,000	\$24,500
Restitution Ordered		\$250,000		\$59,982.50			\$309,982.50
Community Service Hours			60 hours	400 hours	75 hours		535 hours

**Environment Article (EN)**

Title 4- Water Management  
 Title 7- Hazardous Materials & Hazardous Substances  
 Title 9 – Water, Ice & Sanitary Facilities

**Criminal Law Article (CR)**

Title 10- Crimes Against Public  
 Health, Conduct and Sensibilities

**Code of Maryland Regulations  
(COMAR)**

Title 8- Department of Natural  
 Resources  
 Subtitle 2- Fisheries Services

**\*\*\*Note: A single case may involve charges from any number of various titles. Additionally, during this reporting period, ten Defendants received a probation before judgment pursuant to Criminal Procedure Article § 6-220.**

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES CRIMES UNIT: COMPLETED CASE HIGHLIGHTS

**State v. Orlando Pagan, Case No. C-24-CR-24-001277**  
**State v. Anthony Simmons, Case No. C-24-CR-24-001278**  
**State v. Jeremy Thompson, Case No. C-24-CR-24-001279**

On August 5, 2024, the ENRCU secured indictments for three individuals in Baltimore City Circuit Court on over 30 criminal charges for violations of state environmental laws related to the improper disposal of hazardous materials, including felony charges of improper disposal of controlled hazardous substances and related solid waste charges. This investigation was initiated after referral from the Maryland Department of the Environment.





After a trial before the Honorable Troy Hill in Baltimore City Circuit Court on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 2025, Defendant Anthony Simmons was found guilty on all counts, including conspiracy to illegally dispose a controlled hazardous substance, the authorizing, directing or permitting the illegal disposal of a controlled hazardous substance, and solid waste nuisance charges. Mr. Simmons was sentenced to five years' incarceration, all of which was suspended, ordered to pay a \$100,000 fine, all of which was suspended, and placed on five years' supervised probation. Special conditions of probation included 200 hours of community service and restitution to the Maryland Department of the Environment in the amount of \$59,982.50. Co-defendants Jeremy Thompson and Orlando Pagan both pleaded guilty and each received sentenced of three years' incarceration, all of which was suspended, were placed on three years' supervised probation, and were each ordered to perform 100 hours of community service.

## State v. Michael Osei, Case No. C-01-CR-24-000261

On April 23, 2024, 98 counts were filed against Michael Osei in Allegany County Circuit Court. These counts related to the improper dumping and ultimate abandonment of a large number of scrap tires. Charges included the operation of a scrap tire collection facility without a license, the unlawful disposal of scrap tires for monetary gain, the unlawful transport of scrap tires, and other related solid waste counts. This investigation was initiated after referral from the Maryland Department of the Environment. On October 16, 2024, the Defendant pleaded guilty to 17 counts, including one count of unlawful disposal for gain, eight counts of operating a scrap tire facility without a license, and eight counts of improper handling of waste—nuisance. On December 17, 2024, Mr. Osei was sentenced to five years' incarceration, suspending all but 45 days, and five years' supervised probation. Additionally, a \$300,000 fine, all suspended, was ordered, along with restitution in the amount of \$250,000 to be paid to Allegany County for the costs associated with the proper removal of the tires.



**State v. Matthew W. Watkins, Case No. D-021-CR-24-000686, et al.<sup>1</sup>**

On November 9, 2024, Natural Resources Police filed charges against seven individuals, all of whom had Commercial Fishing Licenses issued by the Department of Natural Resources. On May 22, 2025, all seven Defendants pleaded guilty in the District Court for Dorchester County for failing to submit required monthly oyster harvesting reports to DNR. The Defendants all received sentences of probation before judgment, were ordered to pay fines totaling \$6,000, and were all placed on two years of unsupervised probation. Additionally, all the defendants face administrative suspensions of their commercial fishing licenses for up to 60 days



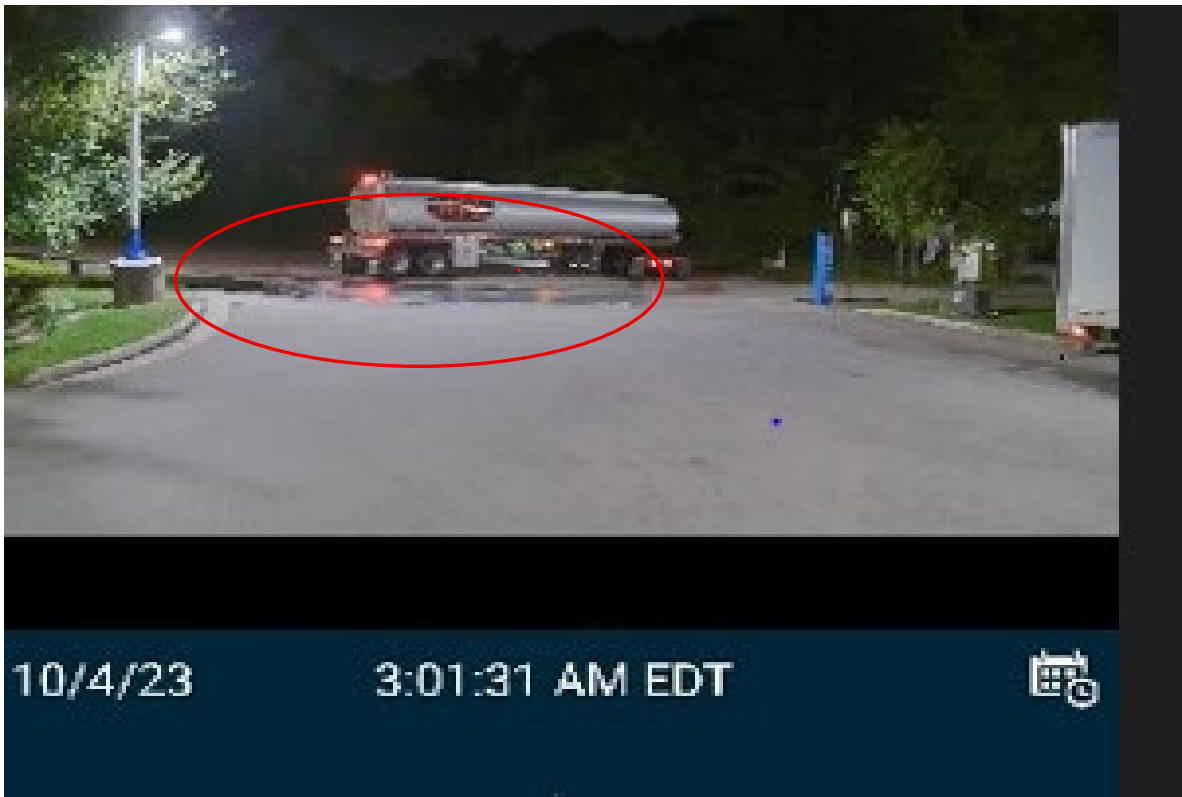
Photo credit: Department of Natural Resources, “Oysters,” by Maryland DNR.

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<sup>1</sup> *State v. Matthew W. Watkins*, Case No. D-021-CR-24-000686; *State v. Tyler J. Era*, Case No. D-021-CR-24-000691; *State v. Howard C. Hughes, Jr.*, Case No. D-021-CR-24-000695; *State v. Hunter D. Hughes*, Case No. D-021-CR-24-000696; *State v. Sydney E. Hughes*, Case No. D-021-CR-24-000692; *State v. Nathan S. Lucas*, Case No. D-021-CR-24-000694; and *State v. Stephen L. Stanley*, Case No. D-021-CR-24-000693.

**State v. Larry Gross, Case No. C-02-CR-24-000969**

On June 20, 2024, charges were filed against Larry Gross in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court for the unlawful discharge of oil. This investigation was initiated after a referral from the Maryland Department of the Environment. On November 6, 2024, the Defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of discharge of oil and was sentenced to one year incarceration, suspending all but 60 days, followed by five years' supervised probation. Additionally, the Defendant was ordered to pay \$50,000, suspending all but \$10,000 to be paid to the Maryland Oil Disaster, Containment, Clean Up & Contingency Fund.



**State v. Philip Robinson, Case No. C-16-CR-24-001553**

On June 24, 2024, charges were filed against Philip Robinson in Prince George's County Circuit Court for environmental violations including the discharge of pollutants. This investigation was initiated after a referral from Delegate Mary A. Lehman, (District 21). On September 5, 2025, the Defendant pleaded guilty to one count of discharge of a pollutant and was sentenced to one year incarceration, all suspended, 60 hours of community service, and two years' unsupervised probation.



**State v. Danny M. Proctor, Case No. C-16-CR-25-000769**

On April 3, 2025, charges were filed against Danny M. Proctor in Prince George's County Circuit Court for violations related to the unlawful dumping and burial of litter and other solid waste. This investigation was initiated after a citizen referral to the Unit. On September 23, 2025, the Defendant pleaded guilty to criminal litter over 500 pounds and was sentenced to one year incarceration, all suspended, and three years' supervised probation. Additionally, the Defendant was ordered to pay \$4,500 to the Nontidal Wetlands Compensation Fund and was ordered to perform 75 hours of community service.



## THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES CRIMES UNIT: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The ENRCU remains committed to collaboration with both law enforcement partners and the community. In addition to participating in trainings with MDE inspectors and county health departments throughout the State, the ENRCU continues to identify needs, discuss available resources, and improve collaboration around the State. Additionally, when available, the ENRCU participates in regional enforcement task force meetings led by investigative partners. These regional meetings work to highlight work done by other agencies, foster resource awareness, and further the ENRCU's contacts within the environmental criminal enforcement arena.

The ENRCU is focused on cultivating community outreach. A continuing objective is to expand and increase awareness of the Unit with the goal of becoming a better-known resource for those witnessing or experiencing potential environmental or natural resource crimes. The ENRCU encourages anyone with such information to reach out via the contacts provided in this report or through the OAG website.

The Unit will continue to utilize Supplemental Environmental Projects when appropriate. A Supplemental Environmental Project, or "SEP," is an environmentally beneficial project or activity that protects and improves the environment and reduces risks to public health. A requirement to complete or participate in a negotiated SEP can be part of a resolution of a case against a corporation or an individual for environmental or natural resource violations. The ENRCU believes that SEPs should support projects focused on and intended to provide direct environmental and related public benefits, especially in overburdened communities where both environmental and socio-economic stressors have contributed to persistent environmental health disparities.

### OUTREACH HIGHLIGHT, UPDATED:

In August 2023 in *State v. Curtis Bay Energy, LP*, the defendant, the owner and operator of a special medical waste incinerator facility located in South Baltimore, pleaded guilty in Baltimore City Circuit Court to 40 environmental violations related to the insufficient treatment and improper handling of special medical waste and concealment of an unpermitted discharge outlet.<sup>2</sup> As part of the plea, the company was placed on two years' probation and ordered to pay a fine of \$1,000,000 to the Maryland Clean Water Fund. A special condition of probation required Curtis Bay Energy to fund a SEP directing a total of \$750,000 into

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<sup>2</sup> See, *State v. Curtis Bay Energy, LP*, Case No. 623160001.

communities surrounding the facility for environmental projects to protect and improve the environment and reduce risks to public health. This SEP was to be administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust (the Trust), a nonprofit grant-making organization.

At the time of this report, the entire \$1,000,000 criminal fine has been paid to the Maryland Clean Water Fund and the SEP Funds, totaling \$750,000 have been paid.

SEP Funds Received by Date	Amount
September 19, 2023	\$120,000.00
February 19, 2024	\$67,500.00
August 14, 2024	\$187,500.00
July 7, 2025	\$375,000.00

The Trust, in partnership with the OAG, announced a grant program aimed at supporting environmental projects led by community-based groups in Curtis Bay and its surrounding communities. The “Healthy Environment, Healthy Communities Grant Program” was established to support community outreach and engagement, environmental action, and larger-scale restoration projects focused on communities within Curtis Bay and surrounding areas.<sup>3</sup> A total of seventeen (17) projects were awarded:



<sup>3</sup> Funding sources originated from both the criminal case against Curtis Bay Energy, L.P., and a civil settlement involving the Patapsco and Back River Wastewater Treatment Plants. The funds from the criminal case directly supported projects in Curtis Bay and surrounding communities. *See*, <https://cbtrust.org/grants/healthy-environment-healthy-communities/>

Organization	Grant Number	Grant Amount	Project Title	Description
Filbert Street Garden	25079	\$2,084	Pollinator & Greywater Gardens	for stormwater and pollinator gardens.
Filbert Street Garden	25078	\$21,600	Filbert Street Garden Stewards Program	for local youth to be employed as stewards to support daily operation of the Filbert Street Garden.
The Complete Player (TCP) Charity	25076	\$82,951	TCP Young Leaders (BP Street Sweepers)	for student-led clean-ups, environmental education, and drain stenciling in the Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn, and Curtis Bay communities.
Pasadena Sportfishing Group	25075	\$45,160	Pasadena Sportfishing Youth Environmental Outreach	for a series of fishing events to engage children and families in the outdoors.
Anne Arundel County Public Schools	25071	\$3,285	ITP in the Park	for park outings for young children with disabilities and their families.
Concerned Citizens for a Better Brooklyn	25068	\$15,600	"Don't Bee Trashy"	for community clean-ups on Garrett Park and Chesapeake Avenue, coupled with native plantings, and curb and gutter painting.
Shelley's House	25058	\$27,000	Restoring Our Roots: Healing Our Environment, Ourselves, & Our Community	for community engagement at the intersection of environmental health and physical and emotional well-being.
Drink at the Well, Inc.	25052	\$50,649	Hons Honey Workforce Development and Community Outreach	to expand a beekeeping program and increase community outreach on the importance of bees to environmental health.
Greater Baybrook Alliance	25050	\$24,921	Brooklyn Commercial Corridor Cleaning	for community clean-ups along the Brooklyn business corridor.
City of Refuge Baltimore	25048	\$55,000	Solar Energy Equity Pre-Apprentice Program	for a solar panel installation workforce development program.
National Aquarium	25046	\$28,882	Sustaining Environmental Stewardship Opportunities and Engagement in South Baltimore	for a series of community engagement activities with the Latine congregation, Templo de Alabanza y Restauración.
Nature Worx, Inc.	25045	\$25,866	Nature Worx for Healthy Communities	for a series of nature immersion events in Baltimore City.
Grow Home Inc	25040	\$114,125	Community Restoration of Farring-Baybrook Park	for greening, pollution reduction, and stormwater management practices at Farring Baybrook park. <i>*Note: This project is split-funded with CBE (\$65,849) and Patapsco and Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant (\$48,276) SEP funds.</i>
South Baltimore Community Land Trust Inc	25039	\$48,500	Summer Youth Environmental Justice (SY EJ) Scholars Program	for a community-led research and education initiative designed to engage high school students in hands-on environmental justice work.
Black Yield Institute, Inc.	25038	\$100,000	Black Yield Marketplace, Curtis Bay Mutual Aid Market	for a sustainably designed marketplace in Curtis Bay to address food insecurity by providing access to fresh, affordable produce.
The Johns Hopkins University	25037	\$77,653	Multi-Pollutant Observation of Water, Environmental, and Respiratory Health Van (MPOWER Van)	for a mobile laboratory to support ongoing environmental monitoring, community engagement, and response.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES CRIMES UNIT: BUDGET

Though a part of the Office of the Attorney General’s Criminal Division, the Unit receives funding from MDE and DNR. The total budget appropriated for the Unit by MDE for FY26 is \$854,322. This includes the conversion from contractual to PINS for both an Assistant Attorney General and criminal investigator position.

Additionally, DNR provides funding, supporting an assistant attorney general position. This results in a total contribution to the Unit for FY26 of \$179,273.18.



Photo Credit: Department of Natural Resources, “Early Start,” by Ink Byers, 2013 Photo Contest Results.

## CONCLUSION

In January 2025, the Office of the Attorney General introduced its Strategic Plan, detailing the OAG’s mission, vision, values and strategic priorities. The mission of the Office includes vigorous enforcement of laws that “safeguard the rights of the people and promotes justice and equity for all Marylanders,” and includes as one of OAG’s priorities, “safeguarding good stewardship of our public and natural resources.” In furtherance of this goal, the OAG prioritizes the protection of natural resources through the enforcement of natural resource and environmental laws and holding violators accountable, while bringing equity to environmental policy and protections with a focus on environmental justice.

During this reporting period, the Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit obtained convictions in 18 separate cases on 77 separate criminal counts. Defendants were ordered to 105 days of incarceration, complete 535 hours of community service and were placed on a collective of 45 years of probation with suspended incarceration and fines totaling over \$480,000. Further, defendants were ordered to pay \$24,500 in criminal fines and \$309,982.50 in restitution. With dozens of ongoing investigations and pending cases at the time of this report, the Unit continues its proactive and committed efforts to protect Maryland’s environment and natural resources and holding accountable those persons and companies that threaten those resources.



Photo credit: Department of Natural Resources, Group Take Off, Jan Master, 2013 Photo Contest.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES CRIMES UNIT: CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Main Line..... (410) 537-3333

General Email Address..... [ENRCU.OAG@maryland.gov](mailto:ENRCU.OAG@maryland.gov)

Mailing Address..... 1800 Washington Boulevard  
Suite # 6115  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

OAG webpage..... <https://oag.maryland.gov/i-need-to/Pages/Environmental-&-Natural-Resources-Crimes.aspx>





Photo credit: Department of Natural Resources, Fall, Third Place Winner, Debby Berlyne, 2023 Photo Contest Winners.

