

## Tribute to Torrey Brown

As members of Maryland's Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission It was with great sadness we learned of the passing of Dr. Torrey Brown. Torrey has had a greater impact on natural resources management and protection in Maryland than perhaps any other individual in modern history. From his tenure as a legislative leader in the Maryland General Assembly to his more than twelve years leading the Department of Natural Resources under three different governors, and then followed by his tireless work as a volunteer leading many boards and blue ribbon commissions he demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the natural beauty and resources of the State of Maryland.

For more than forty years Dr. Brown made significant contributions to the quality of life of Marylanders through his tireless work on behalf of Maryland's natural resources. He led the initiation of the Chesapeake Bay restoration program and helped author comprehensive legislation to facilitate that effort creating a multistate agreement which was the first of its kind in the United States. The bay program became a model for multi-jurisdictional restoration efforts world-wide. Torrey wasn't afraid to make difficult and unpopular decisions when he felt they were necessary to save a resource. The striped bass moratorium under Governor Hughes was a prime example of his willingness to do whatever necessary to save a valuable fishery.

Dr. Brown was always governed by and cared about how his decisions would affect people and he was a master at finding ways to mitigate the adverse effects that difficult decisions would have on them. One of his greatest talents was his ability to win voluntary support for the things that needed to be done – even from the opponents.

The contributions he made to Maryland fisheries as well as virtually all our natural resources are legendary and too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say we will miss him terribly and always be grateful for the time we had with him and the legacy he left.