

Section 2: Historical summary

General Introduction

This section contains a short history of the Coastal Bays and its watershed. Both pre- and post-European events are covered, and a timeline of major events occurring since the late nineteenth century is included. This historical paper was the result of a review of historical documents and summaries, supplemented by interviews with experts on Coastal Bays history and local citizens. Some of the information is based purely on the observations of some of the interviewees and is thus speculative, but nevertheless illuminating. This historical section was included in the overall assessment in order to provide a framework for how and why ecological change has occurred in this watershed. Such a framework can be used in the context of the current status of water quality, habitat, and living resources to guide future management decisions.

Chapter 2.1 A brief history of the Maryland Coastal Bays