



# Life on the Chesapeake Bay

**When Marylanders, like myself, think about boating it evokes happy memories. A day on the bay with friends, colleagues, tournaments, fishing and/or hunting. Some of us were even lucky enough to grow up on the Chesapeake Bay, firmly believing that dark brackish water runs through our veins.**

**For most, growing up on the bay meant you were probably in a boat before you could walk. You learned how to clean a fish and dip a crab before you could read a book. The Chesapeake Bay is a staple in our lives far more than we even realized, mainly because we've always considered it to just be there. In our backyards, down the road, at the local marina, crossing over the Bay Bridge. It's hard to not take the bay for granted, not truly understanding how lucky we are. I know whenever I travel to a land locked state I look for the nearest body of water, even if it's a pool, because I am so used to seeing the water.**

**The Chesapeake Bay has so much to offer anyone and everyone, which is why thousands flock to Maryland each year. You could find yourself sailing, paddle boarding, kayaking, casting a rod, hunting (also known as waking your neighbors up at the crack of dawn as the shots ring out over the bay), crabbing, digging for oysters, jet-skiing, wakeboarding; the list is endless.**

**So next time you take a look out on the water, remember the Chesapeake Bay has always been with us, and we must keep our fingers crossed that it will continue to be there for many years to come.**

**- Katherine Henard**

