

Proposed Action on Regulations

For information concerning citizen participation in the regulation-making process, see inside front cover.

Symbol Key

- Roman type indicates existing text of regulation.
- *Italic type* indicates proposed new text.
- [Single brackets] indicate text proposed for deletion.

Promulgation of Regulations

An agency wishing to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations must first publish in the Maryland Register a notice of proposed action, a statement of purpose, an estimate of economic impact, an economic impact on small businesses, a notice giving the public an opportunity to comment on the proposal, and the text of the proposed regulations. The opportunity for public comment must be held open for at least 30 days after the proposal is published in the Maryland Register.

Following publication of the proposal in the Maryland Register, 45 days must pass before the agency may take final action on the proposal. When final action is taken, the agency must publish a notice in the Maryland Register. Final action takes effect 10 days after the notice is published, unless the agency specifies a later date. An agency may make changes in the text of a proposal. If the changes are not substantive, these changes are included in the notice of final action and published in the Maryland Register. If the changes are substantive, the agency must repropose the regulations, showing the changes that were made to the originally proposed text.

Proposed action on regulations may be withdrawn by the proposing agency any time before final action is taken. When an agency proposes action on regulations, but does not take final action within 1 year, the proposal is automatically withdrawn by operation of law, and a notice of withdrawal is published in the Maryland Register.

Title 08 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Subtitle 18 BOATING—SPEED LIMITS AND OPERATION OF VESSELS

08.18.24 Severn River Vessel Management Area

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§8-703 and 8-704, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[24-027-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation .01 under **COMAR 08.18.24 Severn River Vessel Management Area**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to establish a 6-knot speed limit, effective at all times, for an area extending for approximately 175 yards into the Severn River from each side of the yard patrol pier and quay wall construction project at the Naval Support Activity in Annapolis, Maryland. This regulation would be in effect through October 15, 2025.

The proposed action is required to ensure public safety and protect human life. Without an established speed limit, the construction zone poses safety threats for all waterway users, employees, and contractors. The proposed speed limit will help protect all workers and barges from excessive wake actions. This action will positively support the project and prevent delays. Additionally, this action has been developed in cooperation with the United States Navy.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Anne Arundel County, Severn River: Naval Academy YP Pier Construction Project, Regulatory Staff, Department of Natural Resources, Fishing and Boating Services, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-4, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8300, or email to boatingregpubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through May 6, 2024. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.01 Severn River Main Stem — Speed Limits; Prohibited Zone.

A. The Severn River main stem areas, with their corresponding speed limits, are set forth below:

(1)—(6) (text unchanged)

(7) *Naval Yard Patrol Craft Pier Construction Area. This encompasses the area enclosed by a line beginning at or near Lat. 38° 58.987' N, Long. 76° 28.229' W, then running 226° True to a Point, at or near Lat. 38° 58.926' N, Long. 76° 28.310' W, then running 123° True to point, at or near Lat. 38° 58.894' N, Long. 76° 28.250' W, then running 105° True to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 58.846' N, Long. 76° 28.023' W, then running 112° True to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 58.790' N, Long. 76° 27.845' W, then running 26° True to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 58.868' N, Long. 76° 27.795' W, then running 289° True to the point of beginning. The speed limit for this area is 6-knots at all times, effective through October 15, 2025.*

B.—C. (text unchanged)

JOSH KURTZ
Secretary of Natural Resources