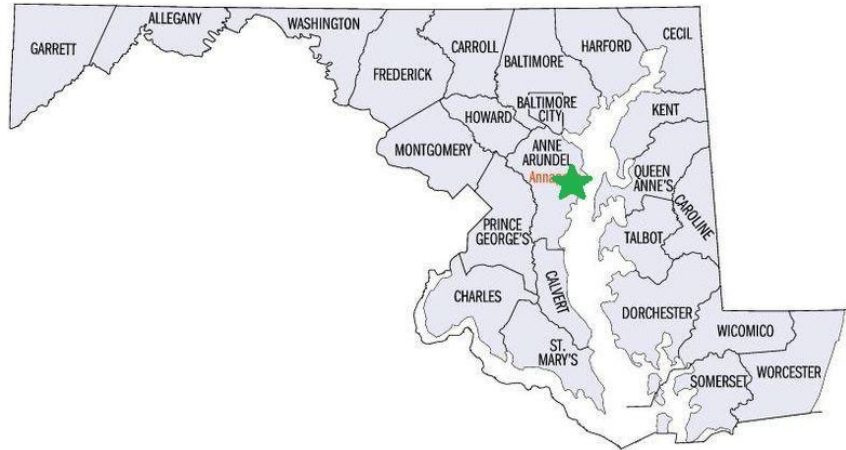


Anne Arundel County - Browns Cove - Mill Creek - Whitehall Bay



What was requested?

The Department received a request to extend a speed zone in Mill Creek to include the Browns Cove area. The resulting speed zone would include all of Browns Cove and be combined with the Mill Creek entrance channel speed zone. The new zone would begin on the western shore of Mill Creek and run to the northern point of Burley Cove located on the eastern shore of Mill Creek. The current speed zone has a speed limit of 6 knots on Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, during the boating season and the new area would have the same rules.

Why was this change requested?

The Department was provided the following information:

- There has been damage to boats and docks at the marina in Browns Cove because the current speed zones do not cover that area.

What is the current regulation for the area?

There currently is no speed zone for the requested area.

The speed zone that currently exists for the Mill Creek entrance channel is COMAR 08.18.29.03D:

Mill Creek entrance channel encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 59.533' N., Long. 76° 27.013' W., then running 77° (True) to USCG DB2M, at or near Lat. 38° 59.567' N., Long. 76° 26.823' W., then running 13° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 59.700' N., Long. 76° 26.783' W., and downstream of a line beginning at or near Lat. 38° 59.593' N., Long. 76° 27.022' W., then running 342° (True) to a USCG DB 10M, at or near Lat. 38° 59.675' N., Long. 76° 27.055' W., then running 18° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 59.722' N., Long. 76° 27.035' W. This area has a 6-knot speed limit on Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays during the boating season.

Definitions

“6 knots (6.9 MPH)” means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel:

- (a) At a boat speed in excess of 6 knots (6.9 statute miles per hour, or 11.1 kilometers per hour); or
- (b) To tow an individual on a ski, aquaplane, or similar device.

“Boating season” means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each April 15, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding October 15.

“Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays” means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each Saturday, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding Sunday, and during the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. and ending at 12 midnight each holiday officially recognized by the State of Maryland as listed by the Maryland Department of Budget and Management.

Regulatory Process

Boating rules in Maryland may be created by either the General Assembly or the Department. When the Department creates a boating rule, it is called a regulation. When the General Assembly creates a rule, it is called a statute. The Department often has to create a regulation to implement a statute. The regulatory process begins with scoping and the Department follows normal [procedures](#) as concepts move forward.

During the scoping process, the Department gathers suggestions and ideas from stakeholders and others about how to solve a boating problem or address a need. The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issues so that management actions can be developed. After the public has had an opportunity to comment on possible management actions during the scoping process, the Department considers these comments and develops an appropriate management strategy.

When could this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the spring of 2027. However, the exact date cannot be determined at this time.

Maps of the Area - Browns Cove, Mill Creek, Whitehall Bay

The area requested is the polygon outlined in red.



Corresponding satellite image of the requested area.

