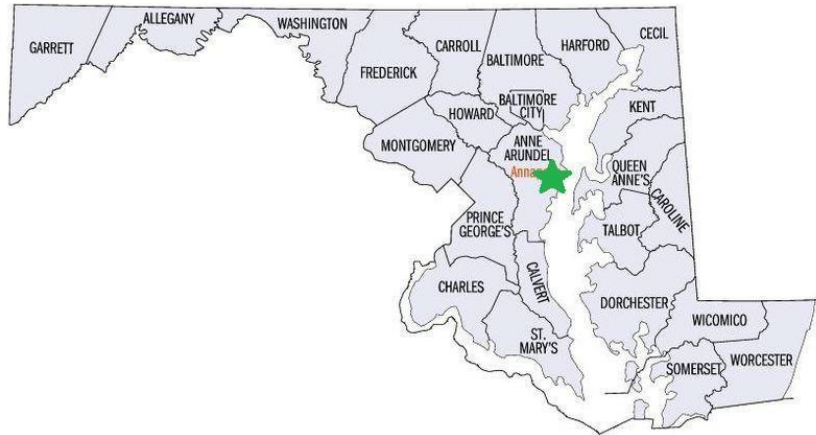


Anne Arundel County - Selby Bay - South River



What was requested?

The Department received a request to expand the existing Selby Bay speed zone in the South River. The request is to extend the boundary to encompass the northern shoreline of Turkey Point Island. The new zone would start at the southernmost point of Long Point and continue approximately 1100 yards southeast to the northernmost point of Turkey Point Island. The affected area is currently regulated during the boating season with a speed limit of 35 knots from sunrise to sunset and 20 knots from sunset to sunrise. The request would change the speed limit to 6 knots and be in effect on Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

Why was this change requested?

The Department was provided the following information:

- Expand the 6 knot speed zone of the entrance to Selby Bay to protect the shoreline of the north side of Turkey Point Island.
- Expanding the zone should not impact the exit from the main waterway along the South River to the Bay.

What are the current regulations in the area?

The requested area is within the speed zone described in COMAR 08.18.25.02A: Lower South River Area. This encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at Thomas Point, at or near Lat. 38° 54.433' N., Long. 76° 27.615' W., then running 227° (True) to Saunders Point, at or near Lat. 38° 53.108' N., Long. 76° 29.445' W., and downstream of a line beginning at Shadow Point, at or near Lat. 38° 56.783' N., Long. 76° 32.981' W., then running 32° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 57.057' N., Long. 76° 32.762' W.

- Except as otherwise restricted, the speed limits for this area are:
- (1) 35 knots from sunrise to sunset during the boating season; and
 - (2) 20 knots from sunset to sunrise during the boating season.

The request is to extend the following area described in COMAR 08.18.25.03J:

Selby Bay encompasses the area south of a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 54.708' N., Long. 76° 30.373' W., then running 136° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 54.462' N., Long. 76° 30.070' W., and north of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 54.115' N., Long. 76° 30.432' W., then running 261° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 54.097' N., Long. 76° 30.578' W., including all tributaries. This area has a 6-knot speed limit on Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

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.

“20 knots (23 MPH)” means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel at a boat speed in excess of 20 knots (23 statute miles per hour or 42.6 kilometers per hour).

“35 knots (40.25 MPH)” means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel at a boat speed in excess of 35 knots (40.25 statute miles per hour or 74.5 kilometers per hour).

“All year” means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each January 1, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding December 31.

“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.

