

Anne Arundel County — Bodkin Back Creek

What is being considered?

The department received a request to modify the current boating regulation in Bodkin Back Creek to 6 knots at all times during the year.

What is the current regulation for the area?

The request is to change the speed limit for the area described in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.18.19.03.

[COMAR 08.18.19](#) Patapsco River.

[Regulation .03](#) Patapsco River South Shore

B. Bodkin Creek.

(3) Back Creek encompasses the area beginning at Back Creek Point, at or near Lat. 39° 7.983'N., Long. 76° 26.827' W., then running 196° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 7.888'N., Long. 76° 26.862' W., and running to the head of the creek. This area has a 6-knot speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

Why was this change requested?

The requestor stated: Currently the speed limit is SSH which is only observed by few. During the week there are too many folks that come through on jet skis and larger vessels towing skiers/tubers that come dangerously close to the numerous piers and marinas that line this portion of the waterway. There is maybe one location that meets the criteria for jets skis to exceed the 6 knot limit due to the laws restricting them to 6 knots when inside 100 feet of piers or other vessels.

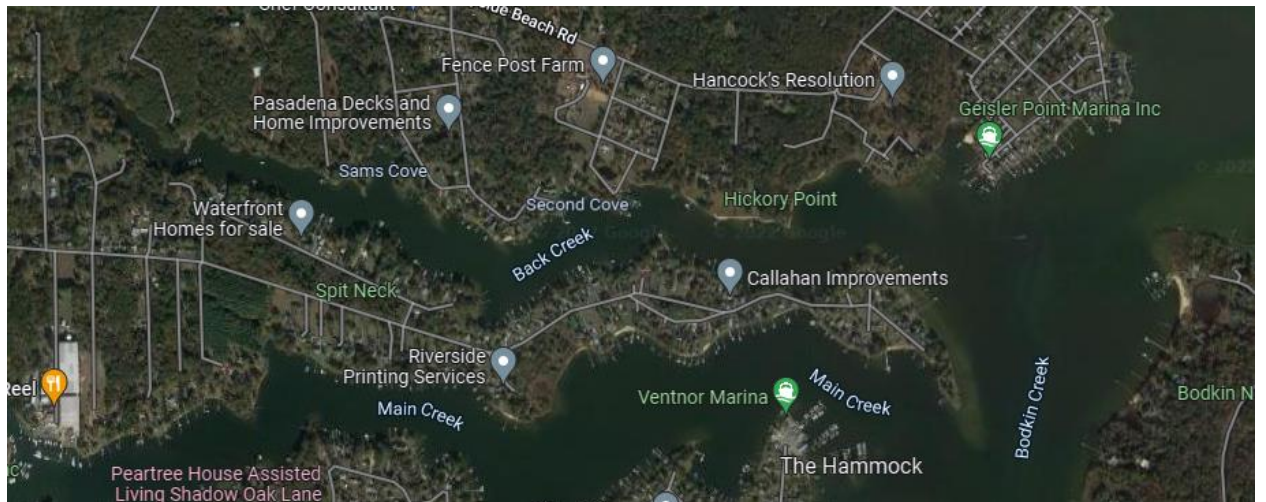
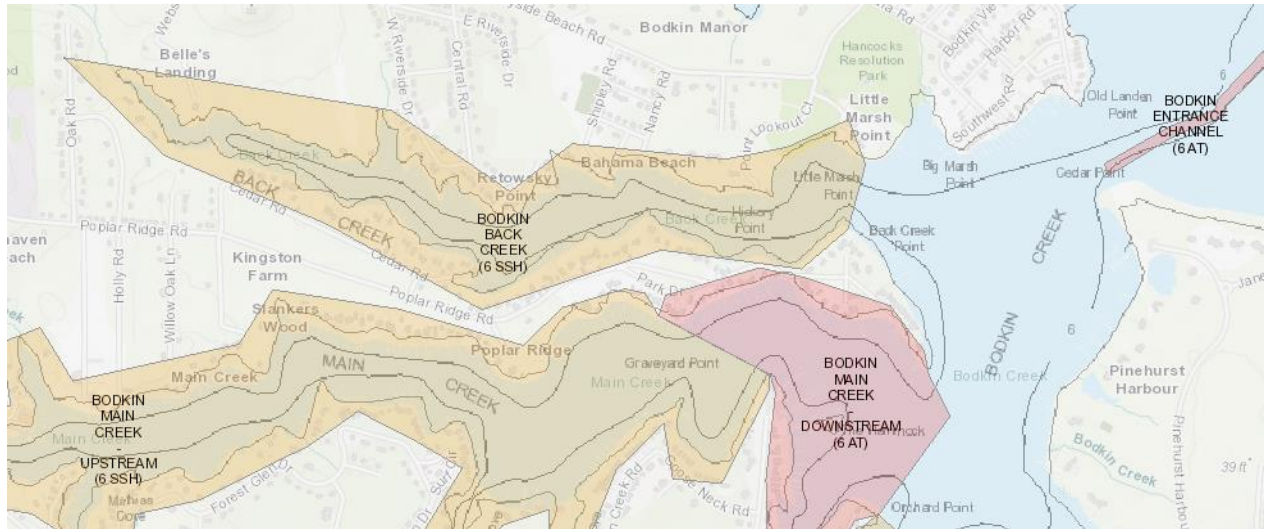
The most important reason is the damaging wakes. The majority of this creek has piers and docks. Some are commercial entities, however most are not. Either way the damage from the wakes causes the boats to rock uncontrollably and causes damage. The wakes also exacerbate the ever present erosion from the natural wave action in the area. I have come to realize many boaters do not know the regulations despite the easily obtainable information.

If the speed limit was changed to 6 knots at all times this would reduce the confusion and reduce the amount of boaters/jet skiers moving dangerously through the narrow waterway at a high rate of speed.

Who will this affect?

- All waterway users (recreational and commercial), business owners in the area, and property owners in the area.
- There is one marina in the area.

Maps of the Area



Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies?

The department and the Boat Act Advisory Committee (BAAC) are gathering information and will meet in September to fully discuss and [evaluate](#) the request. Please [join our mailing list](#) to be notified when this request will be evaluated by the BAAC.

What is the specific regulatory action?

Amend Regulation .03 under COMAR 08.18.19 Patapsco River.

When could this be effective?

This change could be effective in 2023, however, at this time, the department cannot determine if the change will be adopted nor the exact date that it could be effective. The department will follow our normal scoping and proposal procedure. 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.

If the action is necessary and appropriate, the rules will be promulgated following the Administrative Procedures Act described in Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article Annotated Code of Maryland.

- The General Assembly's Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee reviews the regulatory proposal for fiscal and legal analysis.
- The proposal is printed by the Division of State Documents in the Maryland Register.
- A 30-day public comment period begins on the day of publication.
- After review of the comments, the department may adopt the changes.
- If the department adopts the changes, they become effective after a notice is published in the Maryland Register that announces approval and the effective date.

Notes Regarding This Summary

This summary is prepared in accordance with the requirements of State Government Article, §10-110, Annotated Code of Maryland. It is intended to help you understand the potential or revised rules. This summary is not intended to replace or supersede these rules, but to facilitate understanding and compliance with the rules. The department will clarify or update the text of the summary as the idea moves through the regulatory process.