

Anne Arundel County — Clements Creek

What was requested?

The department received a request to modify the current boating regulation in Clements 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) 08.18.24.02.

[COMAR 08.18.24](#) Severn River Vessel Management Area.

[Regulation .02](#) Severn River South Shore — Speed Limits

L. Clements Creek. This encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 39° 1.256' N., Long. 76° 31.645' W., then running 162° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.919' N., Long. 76° 31.503' W. Except as otherwise restricted, the speed limits for this area are:

- (1) 6 knots on Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays;
- (2) 26 knots on weekdays sunrise to sunset; and
- (3) 6 knots on weekdays sunset to sunrise.

Why was this change requested?

The requestor stated: The current speed zone regulation allows excessive speeds and large wakes, which are a safety hazard, cause damage to marinas/private docks and erosion to shores along the entire creek. Clements Creek is used for swimming, kayaking, anchoring, and small craft boats. The creek is busy with boats no matter if it is during the week or not a holiday. Boats towing skiers and tubers use the creek for their activities. Boats come full speed right next to Epping Forest Marina kicking up large wakes making it very unsafe for boaters and those getting on and off their boats. The current regulation allows speeds and wakes that are safety hazardous to paddle boarders and swimmers crossing the creek. Children playing in the water at Epping Forest Marina are hit by large waves as the beach is so close to where boats go full speed. Wakes are eroding shores at a rapid rate.

Maps of the Area

https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Documents/regulations/BAAC-Clements%20Creek_2021.pdf

Who could this affect?

- All types of boating activities occur in this area; therefore, it could affect all waterway users (recreational and commercial), business owners in the area, and property owners in the area.
- There are three community association piers and private dockages.
- The distance to the closest marina or pier from the requested change is less than 500 feet.

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.

When will this be effective?

This change could be effective in 2022, 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.