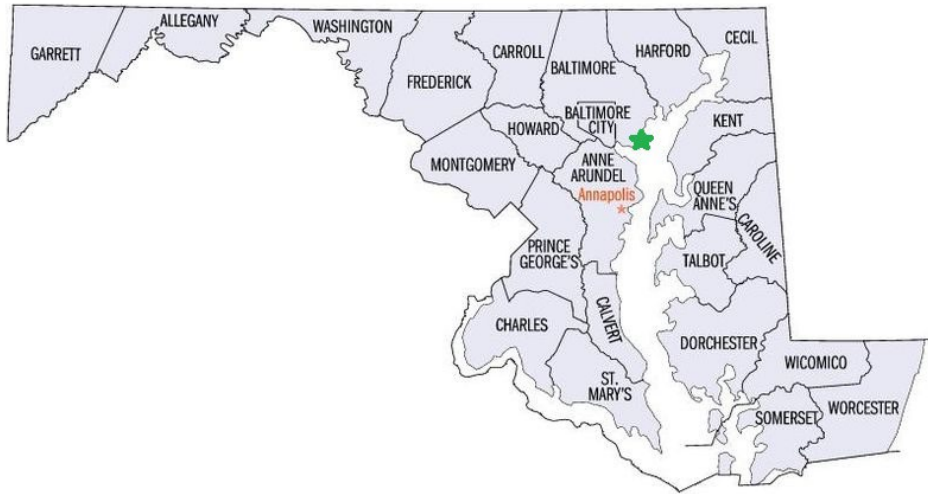


## Baltimore County - Bullneck Creek - Bear Creek - Patapsco River



### **What was requested?**

The Department received a request to extend the current Bullneck Creek speed zone located in Bear Creek in the Patapsco River. The requested extension would start at the entrance to Bear Creek. This would result in the full length of Bullneck Creek having a speed limit of 6 knots on Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

### **Why was this change requested?**

The Department was provided the following information:

- Currently, higher-speed vessel traffic entering the creek can create significant wakes before reaching the existing 6-knot SSH zone, which poses risks to swimmers, kayakers, anglers, and other recreational users who are commonly present in this residential waterway.
- The expanded speed zone would improve safety, reduce property damage, and better protect the environment within Bullneck Creek.
- Expanding the 6-knot SSH zone to the entrance of the creek would create a more consistent and predictable operating environment for boaters, eliminating confusion about where speed reductions should begin, and would include the full length of Bullneck Creek.

### **What is the current regulation for the area?**

There currently is no speed zone for the requested area.

The request is to extend the following area described in COMAR 08.18.19.04B(2): Bullneck Creek encompasses the area beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 14.963' N., Long. 76° 29.845' W., then running 190° (True) to a point, or near Lat. 39° 14.815' N., Long. 76° 29.878' W., and running to the head of the creek. This area has a 6-knot speed limit 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.

“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.

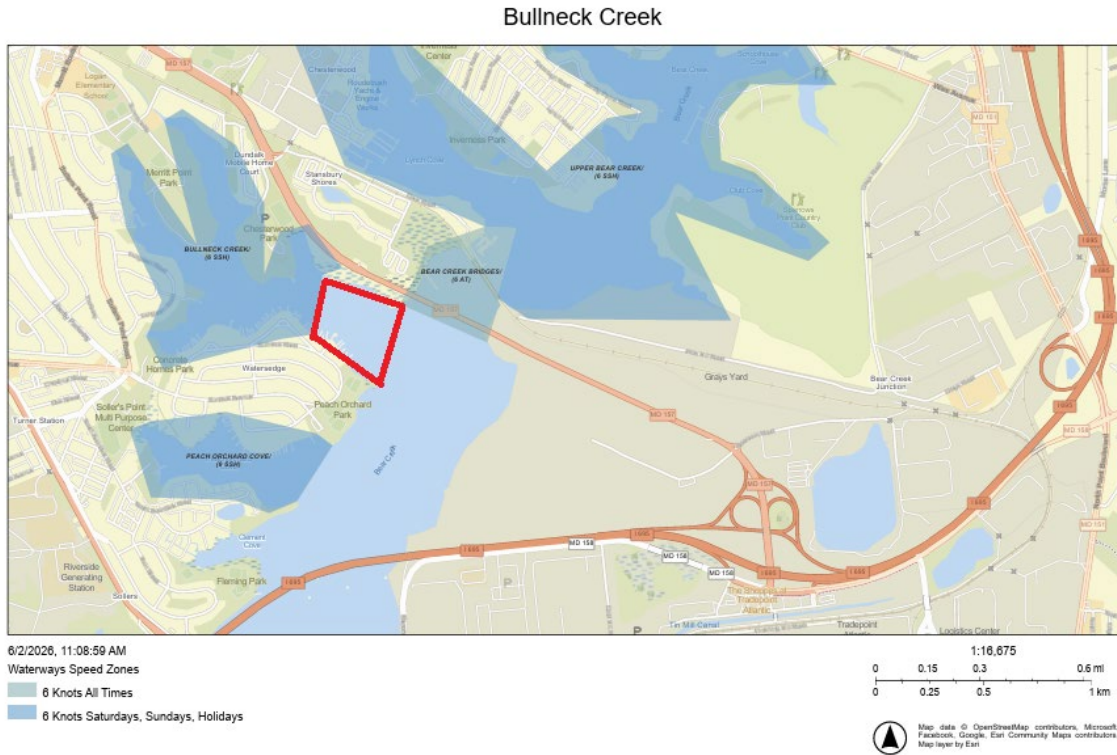
During the scoping process, the Department gathers suggestions and ideas from stakeholders and others about how to solve a boating problem or address a need. The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issues so that management actions 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.

# Maps of the Area - Bullneck Creek, Bear Creek, Patapsco River

The area requested is the polygon outlined in red.



Corresponding satellite image of the requested area.

