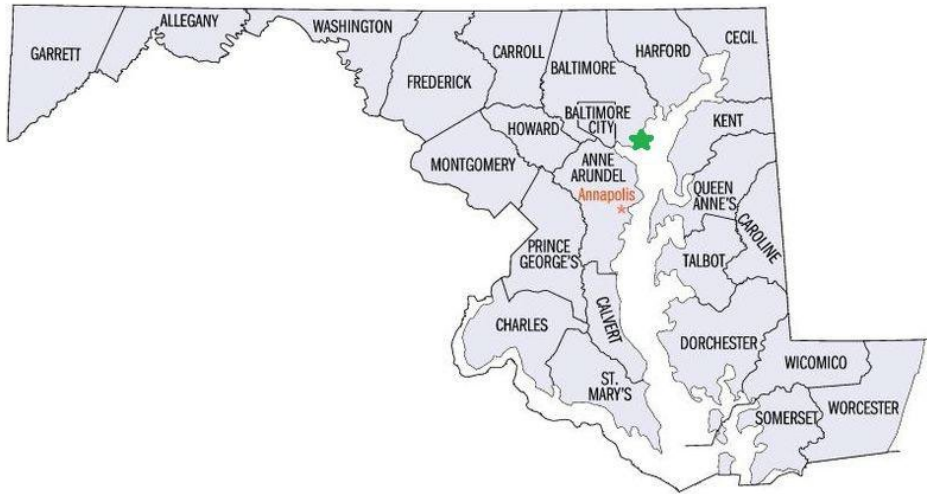


Baltimore County - Holly Beach - Middle River



What was requested?

The Department received a request to create a new speed zone within the existing Middle River 35 knots speed zone in the Middle River. The request is to create a new speed zone at the south end of the entrance of the Middle River along the north shoreline of Holly Beach. The new speed zone would extend nearly 1,900 yards from the north point of the peninsula at Sue Creek eastward across the Holly Beach Road and shoreline, to the end of Booby Point. The affected area is currently regulated during the boating season with a speed limit of 35 knots during the daytime and 25 knots at nighttime. The request would change the speed limit to 6 knots during the boating season.

Why was this change requested?

The Department was provided the following information:

- Boats moving in and out of Middle River create large wakes for the docks on the north shore of Holly Beach.
- There is significant boating and vessel activity during the weekends and holidays during the boating season.
- Boats are frequently traveling at greater speeds than the current 35 knot speed zone, creating large waves.
- These large waves are creating damage to shorelines due to erosion, and property damage to docks, lifts, and bulkheads.

What is the current regulation for the area?

The requested area is within the speed zone described in COMAR 08.18.14.01: Middle River encompasses all of the waters of Middle River and its tributaries beginning at Booby Point, at or near Lat. 39° 17.073' N., Long. 76° 22.892' W., then running 352° (True) to Bowley Bar, at or near Lat. 39° 17.888' N., Long. 76° 23.030' W.

This area, unless otherwise regulated, has a speed limit during the boating season of:

- A. 35-knots (daytime); and
- B. 25-knots (nighttime).

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).

“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.

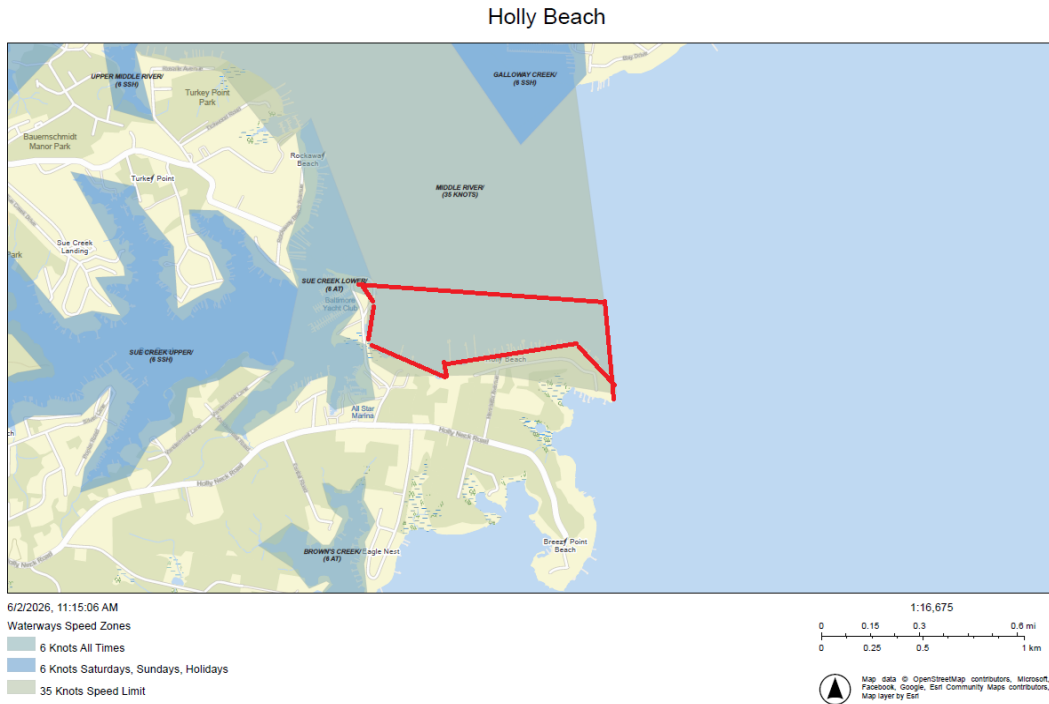
During the scoping process, the Department gathers suggestions and ideas from stakeholders and others about how to solve a boating problem or address a need. The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issues so that management actions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

The area requested is the polygon outlined in red.



Corresponding satellite image of the requested area.

