

Cecil County — Middle Bohemia River

What was requested?

The department received a request to modify the existing speed zone in the Middle Bohemia River. The speed zone would be extended approximately 1.2 nautical miles downstream to a line from Rich Point on the northern side of the Bohemia to Battery Point on the southern side of the Bohemia. This area would have a 6-knot speed limit on Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year, consistent with how the current area is regulated.

What is the current regulation for the area?

The request is to expand the area described in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.18.06.02.

[COMAR 08.18.06](#) Bohemia River.

[Regulation .02](#) Middle Bohemia River.

The Middle Bohemia River encompasses the area beginning at a point at or near Lat. 39° 28.300'N., Long. 75° 53.183' W. (Long Point), then running 19° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 39° 28.697'N., Long. 75° 53.005' W. (Parlor Point), and downstream of a line beginning at or near Lat. 39° 27.753'N., Long. 75° 52.135' W. (north end MD 213 bridge), then running 205° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 27.580'N., Long. 75° 52.240' W. (south end MD 213 bridge), including Manor Creek. This area has a 6-knot speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

Why was this change requested?

The requestor stated: This section of the waterway has become very congested, as the area is served by three large marinas and numerous private docks and moorings. The shoreline is experiencing erosion due to wave action in this narrow section of the river and vessels docked at the marinas have also sustained damage. There is also the concern over the large volume of boat traffic traveling at high rates of speed in this narrow waterway which creates a hazard for all varieties of watercraft transiting this location.

Maps of the Area

https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Documents/regulations/BAAC-Middle%20Bohemia%20River_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 two commercial marinas with gas pumps and pump outs.
- 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.