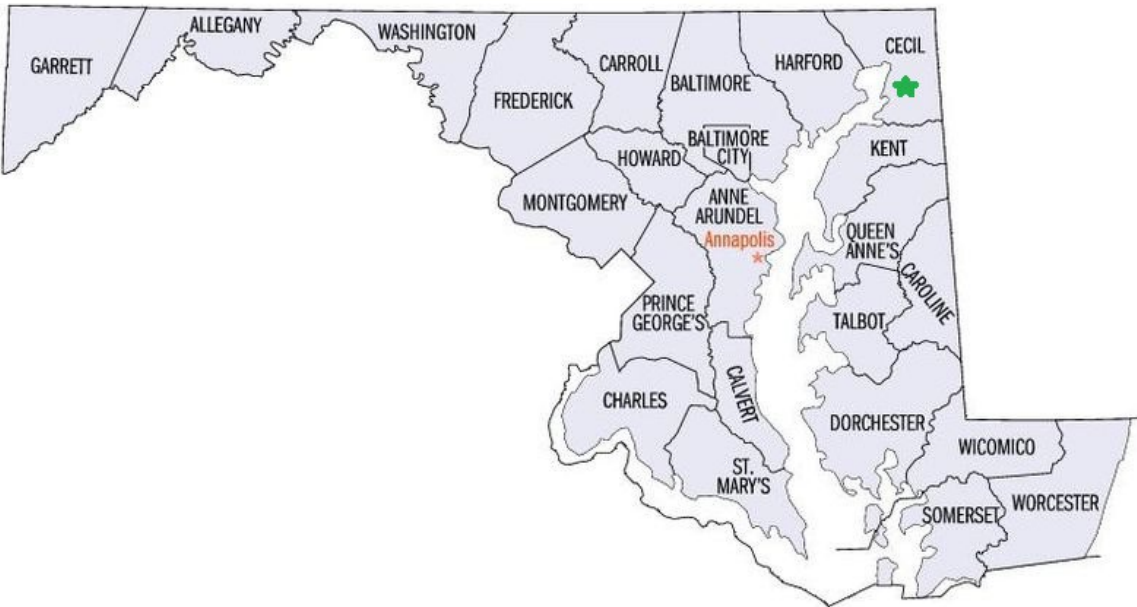


Cecil County - Rogue's Harbor - Elk River



What is being considered?

The Department is considering creating a new speed zone in the Elk River near the area of Rogue's Harbor boat ramp. The Department recently completed a project at the boat launch that added a breakwater to protect the launch area. The new speed zone would encompass the area surrounding the breakwater and have a speed limit of 6 knots, all year. The speed zone would begin approximately 50 yards to the north of the breakwater, extend into the Elk River 100 yards beyond the breakwater, and continue downstream approximately 200 yards to create a box around the breakwater.

Why is this change necessary?

The purpose of this change is to address safety concerns for vessels transiting in or out of the breakwater. Vessels and personal watercraft have been observed approaching or crossing the breakwater area at high rates of speed, or on plane, creating unsafe conditions for all boaters.

What is the current regulation for the area?

There currently is no speed zone for the requested area.

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.

Who will this affect?

This action will affect anyone using the waters in this area.

Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies or other interested or impacted individuals?

No. The Department recently completed the project.

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.

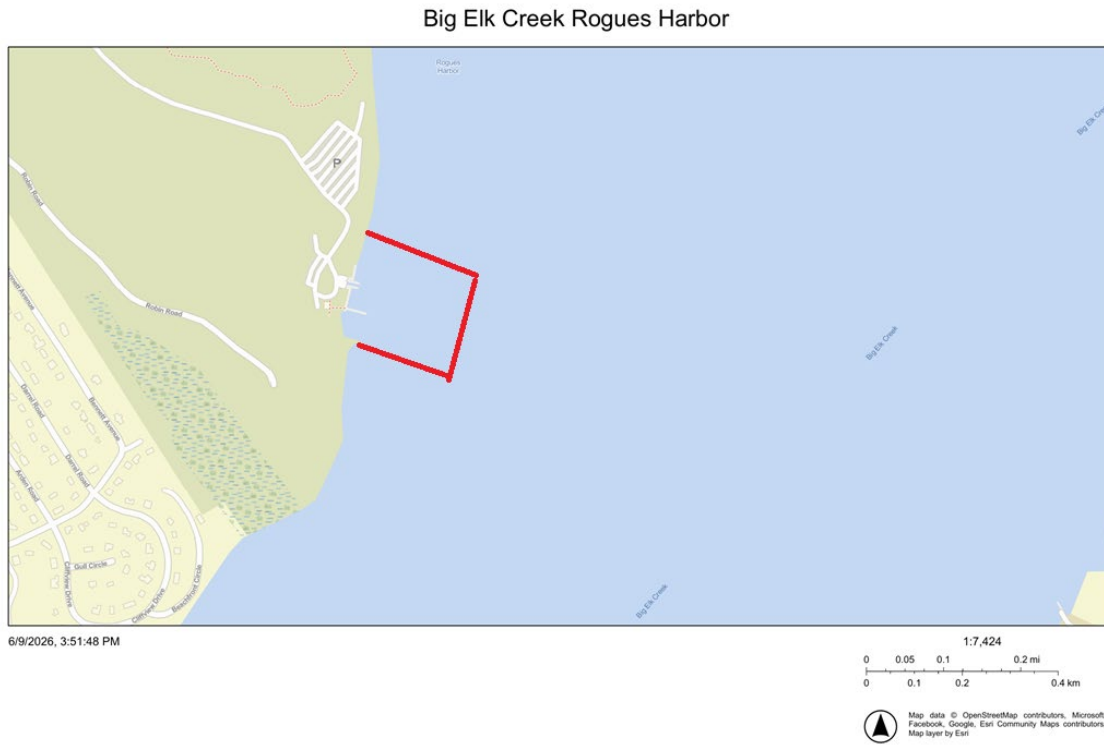
During the scoping process, the Department gathers suggestions and ideas from stakeholders and others about how to solve a boating problem or address a need. The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issues so that management actions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

The area being considered is the polygon outlined in red.



Corresponding overhead image of the requested area.

