

39.577' N., Long. 75° 47.570' W. This area has a minimum wake zone from March 1 through June 15.]

[B. Upper Marshyhope Creek encompasses the area beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 39.625' N., Long. 75° 47.570' W., then running 180° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 39.577' N., Long. 75° 47.570' W., and running to the head of the creek. This area has a minimum wake zone all year.]

B. The speed limit for the area described in §A of this regulation is 6 knots all year.

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary of Natural Resources

08.18.20 Patuxent River

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§8-703 and 8-704, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[25-262-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation .03 under **COMAR 08.18.20 Patuxent River**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to create a new speed zone in Cuckold Creek, a tributary of the Patuxent River in the area of Clarks Landing. The new area encompasses the entrance channel of Cuckold Creek. The proposed action creates a speed limit of 6 knots on Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays during the boating season.

The proposed action slows vessel speeds at a popular area for recreational use and addresses safety concerns as vessels travel between Cuckold Creek and the Patuxent River. Creating a speed zone in the area allows boaters to safely transit the area and use the facilities at a nearby marina.

Estimate of Economic Impact

I. Summary of Economic Impact. The proposed action has a negative economic impact on the Department.

II. Types of Economic Impact.

Impacted Entity	Revenue (R+/R-) Expenditure (E+/E-)	Magnitude
A. On issuing agency:		
Speed Zone Buoys	(E+)	\$1,950
B. On other State agencies:	NONE	
C. On local governments:	NONE	
	Benefit (+) Cost (-)	Magnitude
D. On regulated industries or trade groups:	NONE	
E. On other industries or trade groups:	NONE	
F. Direct and indirect effects on public:	NONE	

III. Assumptions. (Identified by Impact Letter and Number from Section II.)

A. This action requires the Department to purchase three new buoys to delineate the speed zone. The buoys are approximately \$650 each. The waterway improvement fund has money designated to mark waterways, which includes setting, retrieving, and maintaining buoys. The impact of this regulation is a one-time purchase of three new buoys for marking the area. Staff will set, retrieve, and maintain buoys and

Natural Resources Police officers will enforce the speed limit in the course of their normal duties.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has a meaningful economic impact on small businesses. An analysis of this economic impact follows:

Small businesses in the area will not incur any direct financial cost as a result of this rule change, but the behavior of boaters in the area will be restricted. The benefit of that restriction is increased boater safety. There is a marina with a fuel dock and a restaurant in the affected area that may benefit from slower vessel speeds in the vicinity of their business. However, the actual impact is indeterminable.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Boating Regulations for Cuckold Creek, Regulatory Staff, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fishing and Boating Services, 580 Taylor Ave., E-4, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8300, or email to boatingpubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov or complete the comment form at https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Pages/regulations/changes_boating.aspx#stmarys. Comments will be accepted through February 23, 2025. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.03 Patuxent River South Shore.

A. (text unchanged)

B. [Cockhold] Cuckold Creek [encompasses the area beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 20.988' N., Long. 76° 30.857' W., then running 344° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 21.257' N., Long. 76° 30.953' W., and running to the head of the creek, including all tributaries. This area has a 6-knot speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year].

(1) Areas.

(a) All of the waters upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 20.988' N., Long. 76° 30.857' W., then running 344° True to a point at or near Lat. 38° 21.257' N., Long. 76° 30.953' W.

(b) All of the waters enclosed by a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38°20.345' N., Long. 76°30.118' W., then running 294° True to a point at or near Lat. 38°20.392' N., Long. 76°30.252' W., then running along the shore to a point at or near Lat. 38°20.580' N., Long. 76°30.200' W., then running 29° True to a point at or near Lat. 38°20.688' N., Long. 76°30.125' W., then running along the shore to a point at or near Lat. 38°20.563' N., Long. 76°30.020' W., then running 116° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.518' N., Long. 76°29.905' W., then running 194° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.410' N., Long. 76°29.940' W., then running 247° True to a point at or near Lat. 38°20.380' N., Long. 76°30.028' W., then running along the shore to the point of beginning.

(2) Speed Limits.

(a) The speed limit for the area described in §B(1)(a) of this regulation is 6 knots Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

(b) The speed limit for the area described in §B(1)(b) of this regulation is 6 knots Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays during the boating season.

C.—G. (text unchanged)

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary of Natural Resources