

Talbot County — Le Gates Cove

What was requested?

The department received a request to establish a new speed zone for Le Gates Cove beginning near the junction of Peach Blossom Creek. The request is for the area to have a speed limit of 6 knots at all times during the boating season.

What is the current regulation for the area?

There is not a regulation in this area. This is a request for a new area.

Why was this change requested?

The requestor stated: The junction of the main Peach Blossom creek into the narrower Le Gates Cove is a funnel through which there is a variety of water use activity - small sailing boats, paddle-boarders, kayaks, many 20-25' power boats, and some swimmers. There is a public dock towards the top of Le Gates cove and many power boats and personal watercraft enter and exit the junction of Le Gates Cove and Peach Blossom at high speed in close proximity to other water users and to the various fixed piers with moored boats. The wake from the boats causes damage to the living shoreline.

Maps of the Area

https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Documents/regulations/BAAC-Le%20Gates%20Cove_2021.pdf

Who could this affect?

- All waterway users (recreational and commercial), business owners in the area, and property owners in the area.
- There are no marinas in this area.
- There are piers in the area that could receive the wake action from boats slowing down and speeding up.

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.