

Talbot County — Miles River Bridge

What was requested:

The department received a request to establish a speed limit in the Miles River Bridge area. The request is for the speed limit to be 6 knots at all times during the year 300 yards on the downriver and upriver side of the Miles River Bridge/State Route 370.

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: Boats approaching and going under the bridge at high speeds cause significant wake that is damaging to boats tied up on docks and to bulkheads. The wakes wash over the bulkheads onto land and can also be dangerous for boaters using the public access ramp at the bridge.

Maps of the Area

https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Documents/regulations/BAAC-Miles%20River%20Bridge_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 no marinas in the area.
- This is a heavily traveled area.
- Piers on the east side of the speed zone will be impacted by boats speeding up and slowing down in this area.

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.