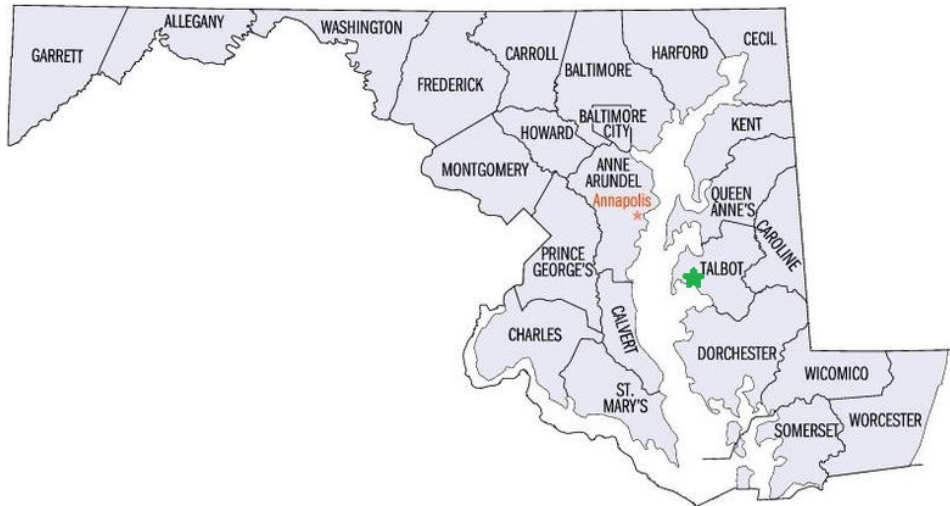


Talbot County - San Domingo Creek - Choptank River



What was requested?

The Department received a request to create a new speed zone in the northeast cove of San Domingo Creek. The request is for a minimum wake speed zone all year.

Why was this change requested?

The Department was provided the following information:

- Speeding boats and jet-skis create wakes that wash over sensitive environmental areas and breach rip-rap causing erosion and disturbing nesting birds and fisheries.

What is the current regulation for the area?

There currently is no speed zone for the requested area.

Definitions

“Minimum wake zone” means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel in excess of the slowest possible boat speed necessary to maintain steerage under prevailing wind and sea conditions not to exceed 3 knots (3.5 statute miles per hour or 5.6 kilometers per hour).

“All year” means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each January 1, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding December 31.

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.

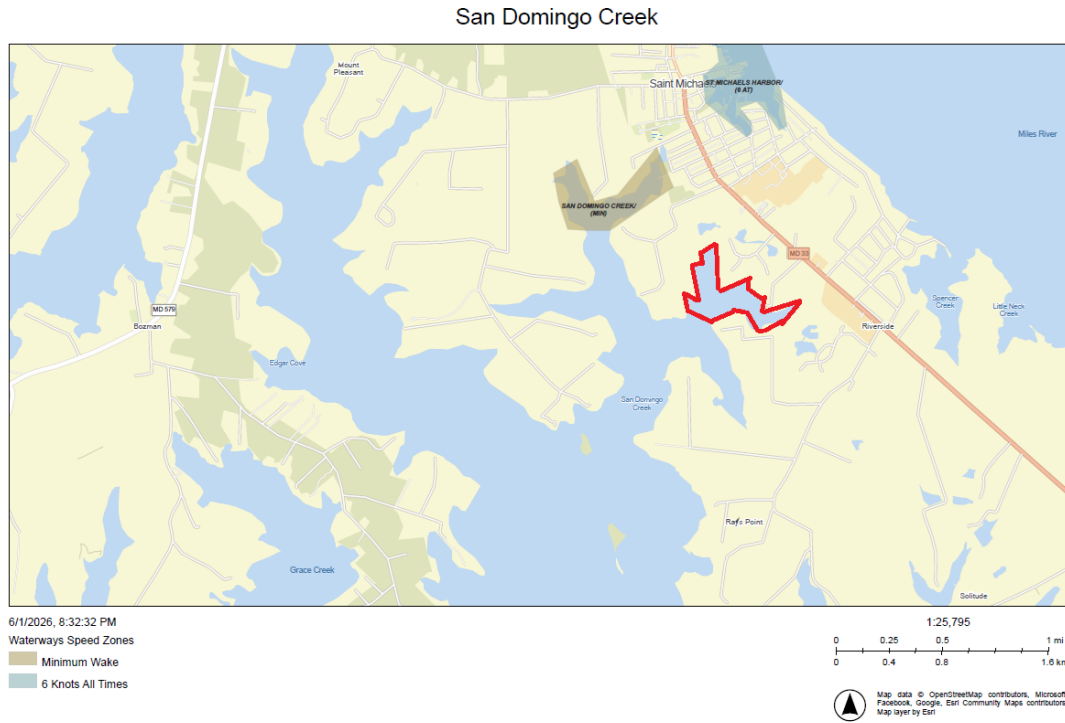
During the scoping process, the Department gathers suggestions and ideas from stakeholders and others about how to solve a boating problem or address a need. The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issues so that management actions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

The area requested is the polygon outlined in red.



Corresponding satellite image of the requested area.

