Anne Arundel County – Severn River Vessel Management Area– Severn River South Shore (Cove of Cork)

What is the current regulation for the area?

Currently, there are two regulations in the area as follows:

COMAR 08.18.24.02

H. Cove of Cork. This encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 39° 0.228’ N., Long. 76° 30.473’ W., then running 306° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.235’ N., Long. 76° 30.485’ W. Except as otherwise restricted, the speed limit for this area is 6 knots.

COMAR 08.18.24.01A

(2) Lower Severn River Area. This encompasses the area north of a line beginning at Greenbury Point, at or near Lat. 38° 58.477’ N., Long. 76° 27.268’ W., then running 228° (True) to the outer beacon at Back Creek, at or near Lat. 38° 7.952’ N., Long. 76° 28.015’ W., then running 290° (True) to Chinks Point, at or near Lat. 38° 58.053’ N., Long. 76° 28.382’ W., then running 350° (True) to Horn Point, at or near Lat. 38° 58.352’ N., Long. 76° 28.450’ W., then running 350° (True) to Triton Light, at or near Lat. 38° 58.887’ N., Long. 76° 28.568’ W., and downstream of a line beginning at Severn Narrows, at or near Lat. 39° 4.086’ N., Long. 76° 34.543’ W., then running 16° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 4.238’ N., Long. 76° 34.489’ W., including the areas known as Round Bay and Little Round Bay, and excepting the area around the Old Severn River Fishing Pier at Jonas Green Park beginning at the north shore of the park, at or near Lat. 38° 59.712’ N., Long. 76° 29.117’ W., then running 236° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 59.657’ N., Long. 76° 29.220’ W., then running 145° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 59.612’ N., Long. 76° 29.180’ W., then running 55° (True) to a point on the south shore of the park, at or near Lat. 38° 59.697’ N., Long. 76° 29.022’ W. Except as otherwise restricted, the speed limits for this area are:

(a) 35 knots from sunrise to sunset; and

(b) 20 knots from sunset to sunrise.

What was requested?

The Department received a request to expand the current Cove of Cork speed zone by approximately 300 feet towards the Severn River.

Why was this change requested?

The Requestor stated the following reason for the request:

“The current location of the start of the speed zone allows for destructive wake damage at the most sensitive and critical point in the Cove of Cork waterway. The entrance Chanel is an ultra-narrow dredged 30 feet wide entry channel (measured from shoreline to shoreline) with steep sand edges that are not stabilized by vegetation and especially vulnerable. A number of boaters will get off plane at the last minute to reach the required 6 mph speed as they cross the demarcation line. At this point, the wake generated (more than 1 foot) continues forward and slams into the edges of the channel. The Lindamoor Community routinely dredges the cut from sand the migrates into the cut or sloughs off from the channel sides. The Community is hard pressed to come up with the resources to pay for the dredging. The goal is to maintain a 6.5 foot channel depth. With such a narrow channel this means that the sidewalls are extremely steep and vulnerable to the increased energy from wakes that drive through from boaters who are entering at the legal speed. By moving the speed zone out by 300 feet or more eliminates this problem. Ideally, we think 500 feet is appropriate. Moving the entry line have no effect on boaters using the Severn River. The River channel is 1000 feet out from the entry to Cove of Cork.in this area, the only traffic are boats transiting to and from the Cove of Cork waterway. There are no business in the area. Cove of Cork has a 30 boat anchorage maintained by the Lindamoor Community Association and approximately two dozen waterfront homes many of which have private piers.”

Who will this affect?

All boaters.

Maps of the Area:

COMAR 08.18.24.02H : This area has a restricted 6-knot speed limit.
COMAR 08.18.24.01A2 : the speed limits for this area are: (a) 35 knots from sunrise to sunset; and (b) 20 knots from sunset to sunrise.

Severn River Bridge
John Hanson Hwy
Cove of Cork
Trollhaven Home
50
50
301
2