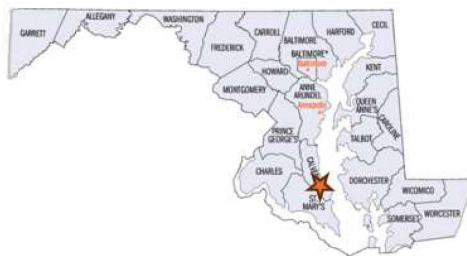


Calvert County – Patuxent River North Shore– Mill Creek



What is the current regulation for the area?

Currently, the area has a restricted 6-knot speed limit all year as follows:

[COMAR 08.18.20.04](#) Patuxent River North Shore.

C. Mill Creek—Calvert County encompasses the area beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 19.597' N., Long. 76° 27.125' W., then running 103° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 19.570' N., Long. 76° 26.980' W., and running to the head of the creek, including St. Johns Creek. This area excludes Leason Cove, beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 19.880' N., Long. 76° 26.245' W., then running 47° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 19.923' N., Long. 76° 26.185' W. This area has a restricted 6-knot speed limit all year.

What was requested?

The Department received a request to establish a 6-knot at all time speed zone in Saint John Creek, which would modify a portion of the existing restricted 6-knot speed limit all year speed zone that exists in the majority of Mill Creek.

Why was this change requested?

The Requestor stated the following reason for the request:

“Excessive land erosion due to higher boat speeds where this section of the creek is narrow with higher wave impacts. Pictures show where boat speeds are allowed, land erosion is significant, whereas where it gets too shallow to go over 6MPH, the erosion is minimal. South of bouy 4, St. John creek and Mill Creek are wider thus with less wave action and erosion...”

“...many spots along area of St John creek that are eroding in part due to so many small boats and jet ski's traveling at high rates of speed in such a narrow waterway. Other areas of Mill creek seem to have this same restriction when the waterway narrows. this area is also a key spot for kayakers and canoeing as it is scenic and isolated... these watercraft at speed are hazardous to these water users.”

“...land erosion that could be minimized to natural erosion and not that due to waves from boats and watercraft under 17'. A significant number of 17 and under boats come through in excess of 25MPH which generates waves larger than 1 foot in a narrow waterway susceptible to water erosion already. Implementing a tighter restriction on the speed limit would have minimal impact to water users other than those traveling at high rates of speeds with small boats.”

Who will this affect?

All boaters.

Maps of the Area:

Approximate portion of Creek requested to be modified. The request is to modify a portion of the existing restricted 6-knot speed limit all year speed zone.

COMAR 08.18.20.04C: This area has a restricted 6-knot speed limit all year.

*Please note COMAR 08.18.01.03B(36) states "(a) "Restricted 6 knots (6.9MPH)" means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel more than 17 feet in length:
 (i) At a boat speed in excess of 6 knots (6.9 statute miles per hour, or 11.1 kilometers per hour);
 or
 (ii) To cause an objectionable or excessive wake.

