

Somerset County – Little Annesmessex River – Daugherty Creek Canal — Janes Island State Park Harbor



What is the current regulation for the area?

Currently, a portion of Daugherty Creek Canal has a 6-knot speed limit all year under COMAR [08.18.12](#) as follows:

.03 Daugherty Creek Canal — Janes Island State Park Harbor.

The Daugherty Creek Canal — Janes Island State Park Harbor encompasses the area beginning at a point on the north side of the east end of Ward Creek, at or near Lat. 38° 0.607' N., Long. 75° 50.958' W., then running 196° (True) to the south side of Ward Creek, at or near Lat. 38° 0.575' N., Long. 75° 50.970' W., and north (upstream) of a point on the east side of Daugherty Creek Canal, at or near Lat. 38° 0.517' N., Long. 75° 50.943' W., then running 282° (True) to the west side of Daugherty Creek Canal, at or near Lat. 38° 0.523' N., Long. 75° 50.983' W., and south (downstream) of a point on the east side of the Daugherty Creek Canal, at or near Lat. 38° 0.670' N., Long. 75° 50.895' W., then running 283° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 0.677' N., Long. 75° 50.932' W. This area has a 6-knot speed limit all year.

What was requested?

The Department received a request to extend the existing speed zone in Daugherty Creek Canal. The request is to reposition the existing southern speed limit demarcation line to the southern end of Daugherty Canal at a "Pole Marker" listed in official Coast Guard Light List publication "Light 18." Secondly, reposition the existing northern speed limit demarcation line as listed Daugherty Creek - Channel Lighted Buoy 5" which can be found just north of the northern mouth of Daugherty Canal located approximately from the southern end of the Janes Island State Park property to a point approximately 60 yards north of the Janes Island Park Office and Store in Somerset County, Maryland.

Why was this change requested?

The Requestor stated the following reason for the request,

“A majority of the homeowners in the small residential area are boat owners and use the Canal for ingress and egress to Tangier Sound and a quick access to the City of Crisfield and beyond.

Additionally, the Canal is frequented by day users, overnight campers of Janes Island State Park, fishermen, and other recreational boaters and crabbers.

A very massive unique and wonderful group of "Canal users" are Janes Island State Park campers that yearly amounts to tens of thousands of people annually who most have small vessels of kayaks, canoes, boats etc. These people in their vessels with gear and children transit throughout Janes Island via the "water trails" developed and maintained by Park personnel. The entire 1.5-mile length of the Canal is particularly subject to local heavy and large vessels for pleasure, hunters, commercial watermen, etc. Thus, boat traffic

throughout the year. It is this category of Canal traffic with their minimum 2 to 2 1/2-foot wakes that are fully responsible for the extensive shoreline erosion of both sides of the Canal and corollary damage to domicile dock planks, pilings, boat lifts, electric wires, water lines, etc. Additionally, such wakes create waves that often are of sufficient height and velocity to come over shoreline protection particularly at times of high tide that infiltrate plant and grass roots killing the vegetation. An issue case in point, is that of the east shoreline property owners at the north end of the Canal here in 24 years they have lost 345 linear feet of shoreline resulting in the loss of 3,680 cubic yards of eastern shoreline material. Thus, such information provides a real-world data point for that of the entire length of the 1.5-mile Canal for both eastern and western shorelines.

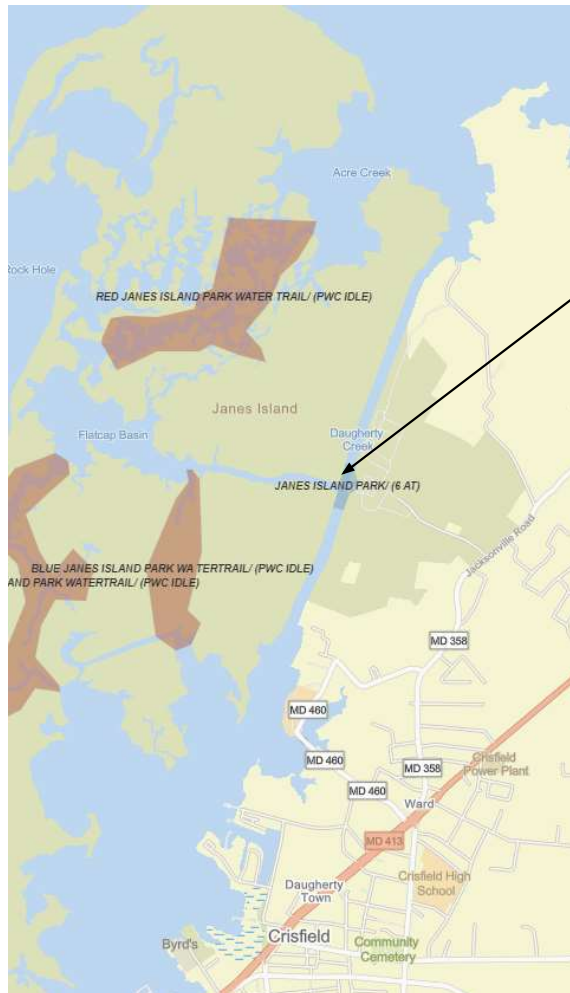
For some time now the speeds of boats and personal watercraft have been steadily increasing. Convoys of small vessels "paddle powered" just can't tolerate wakes for the safety of their riders. Safety shall be the number one requirement.

In addition to the potential for collision, wakes from all boats traveling over 6 mph continue to erode both shorelines of Daugherty Canal.”

Who will this affect?

All boaters.

Maps of the Area:



COMAR [08.18.12.03](#): This area has a 6-knot speed limit all year.

