

## Worcester County – Ocean City—Back Bay Areas– Canals and Inlets (Fenwick Ditch)



### What is the current regulation for the area?

COMAR [08.18.18.01](#)

B. Fenwick Ditch encompasses the area north and east of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 26.718'N., Long. 75° 4.125' W., then running 183° (True) to a point on shore, at or near Lat. 38° 26.513'N., Long. 75° 4.140' W., and south of the Maryland-Delaware line across Fenwick Ditch beginning at a point at Maryland-Delaware Boundary Monument 0, at or near Lat. 38° 27.075'N., Long. 75° 3.297' W., then running 270° (True) to a point at Maryland-Delaware Boundary Monument 1, at or near Lat. 38° 27.075'N., Long. 75° 4.187' W. This area has a 6-knot speed limit all year.

### What was requested?

The Department received two requests to change the current 6-knot speed limit all year. The First Requestor requested making the area a no-wake zone. The Second Requestor requested making the area a minimum wake zone.

### Why was this change requested?

The First Requestor stated,

“The Irresponsible boaters nowadays are ruining our piers...bulkheads....shorelines ...  
...current speed is designed from 80's when few boaters existed....

Delaware Jet Ski Rentals that should use Delaware waters...not ruin Worcester Counties...”

The Second Requestor stated,

“I am asking for something to be done by the State to avoid further destruction to this precious habitat. The constant increase in population, coupled with climate change, are only making the marshes around the coastal bays of the Assawoman more endangered. A simple modification to reduce boat speeds to a minimum wake (with proper enforcement) in the Fenwick Ditch is a simple solution that can potentially have a significant effect on the marshes and our environment for many years to come.

Local boat marinas may be impacted because they regularly rent boats to tourist, but this should not be a concern.”

### Who will this affect?

All boaters.

**Maps of the Area:**

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