

This action may have a positive economic impact for charter fishing and fishing guide businesses as well as bait and tackle stores. Having additional hook flexibility may allow business owners to book additional trips and it may allow their guests to be more successful. The additional flexibility may encourage anglers to fish more which may benefit bait and tackle stores. See sections D and E for additional detail.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Gear - Hook Rules, Regulatory Staff, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fishing and Boating Services, 580 Taylor Ave., E-4 Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8300, or email to send comment at: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/regulations/changes.aspx#hooks>. Comments will be accepted through February 10, 2025. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.03 Recreational Gear — Tidal Waters.

A. (text unchanged)

B. Hook Requirements — Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries.

(1) *Chumming and Live-Lining.*

(a) When chumming [or live-lining], a person recreationally angling in the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries shall only use a circle hook.

(b) *Except as provided in §§B(1)(c) and (d), when live-lining, a person recreationally angling in the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries shall only use a circle hook.*

(c) *When live-lining with a species of finfish listed in COMAR 08.02.20.02C, a person recreationally angling in the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries shall only use a:*

(i) Circle hook; or

(ii) "J" hook.

(d) *Except when using spot or white perch, when live-lining with a finfish that is 4 inches or less in length, a person recreationally angling in the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries shall only use a:*

(i) Circle hook; or

(ii) "J" hook.

(2) (text unchanged)

(3) During the period March 1 through March 31, a person recreationally angling in the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries:

(a)—(b) (text unchanged)

(c) [Except as required by] *In addition to the requirements in §§B(1) and (2) of this regulation, when using fish, crabs, or worms as bait, or processed bait, shall only use a:*

(i)—(ii) (text unchanged)

(4) During the period April 1 through May 15, a person recreationally angling in the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries:

(a) (text unchanged)

(b) [Except as required by] *In addition to the requirements in §§B(1) and (2) of this regulation, when using fish, crabs, or worms as bait, or processed bait, shall only use a:*

(i)—(ii) (text unchanged)

(5) During the period May 16 through December 31, [except as required by] *in addition to the requirements in §§B(1) and (2) of this regulation, when using fish, crabs, or worms as bait, or processed bait, a person recreationally angling in the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries shall only use a:*

(a)—(b) (text unchanged)

C.—I. (text unchanged)

JOSH KURTZ
Secretary of Natural Resources

**Subtitle 18 BOATING—SPEED LIMITS
AND OPERATION OF VESSELS**

08.18.18 Ocean City—Back Bay Areas

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§8-703 and 8-704, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[24-193-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation **.01** under **COMAR 08.18.18 Back Bay Areas**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to expand and amend the existing Fenwick Ditch speed zone area.

The proposed action expands a portion of the Fenwick Ditch speed zone to include waters approximately 0.2 miles west of the current line toward Montego Bay. The proposed expansion will also modify a small portion of the current Ocean City Canals and Inlets regulated area. The purpose of the expansion of the Fenwick Ditch area and modification of the Ocean City Canals and Inlets area is to more clearly delineate those areas in a way that will be understandable to waterway users. Currently, both the Ocean City Canals and Inlets, and the Fenwick Ditch regulated speed areas have a 6-knot speed limit.

The proposed action also amends the Fenwick Ditch area to include a minimum wake zone near the marsh in the southern portion of the area. This will mitigate destructive wake damage to marshes, mitigate safety concerns to both life and property, and promote safe vessel operations.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Ocean City—Back Bay Areas Regulations, Regulatory Staff, Department of Natural Resources (Fishing and Boating Services), 580 Taylor Avenue, E-4, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, or call 410-260-8300, or email to boatingregspubcomment.dnr@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through February 10, 2025. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.01 Canals and Inlets.

A. Ocean City [canals] *Canals* and [inlets] *Inlets*.

(1) *Areas.*

(a) [encompass] *All of the waters of Assawoman and Isle of Wight Bays, east of a line beginning at First Street at or near Lat. 38° 20.043' N., Long. 75° 5.347' W., then running 26° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 20.057' N., Long. 75° 5.338' W., then running northerly along the shore to 10th Street, at or near Lat. 38° 20.518' N., Long. 75° 5.083' W., then running 344° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 20.612' N., Long. 75° 5.117' W., then running northerly along the shore to 14th Street, at or near Lat. 38° 20.782' N., Long. 75° 5.123' W., then running 2° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 20.858' N.,*

Long. 75° 5.120' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point at or near Lat. 38° 21.007' N., Long. 75° 5.055' W., then running 302° [(JTrue)] to Mallard Island, at or near Lat. 38° 21.030' N., Long. 75° 5.103' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 21.107' N., Long. 75° 5.088' W., then running 352° [(JTrue)] to the south end of an island, at or near Lat. 38° 21.195' N., Long. 75° 5.105' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 21.237' N., Long. 75° 5.075' W., then running 359° [(JTrue)] to a Bayshore Drive, at or near Lat. 38° 21.462' N., Long. 75° 5.078' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 21.668' N., Long. 75° 5.130' W., then running 353° [(JTrue)] to Penguin Drive, at or near Lat. 38° 21.755' N., Long. 75° 5.143' W., then running northerly along the shore to 36th Street, at or near Lat. 38° 21.862' N., Long. 75° 4.505' W., then running 15° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 21.867' N., Long. 75° 4.503' W., then running northerly along the shore to Trimper Avenue, at or near Lat. 38° 21.915' N., Long. 75° 4.492' W., then running 345° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.007' N., Long. 75° 4.523' W., then running northerly along the shore to 43rd Street, at or near Lat. 38° 22.192' N., Long. 75° 4.437' W., then running 38° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.265' N., Long. 75° 4.363' W., then running 2° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.350' N., Long. 75° 4.360' W., then running northerly along the shore to 47th Street, at or near Lat. 38° 22.365' N., Long. 75° 4.358' W., then running 23° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.427' N., Long. 75° 4.325' W., then running northerly along the shore to 48th Street, at or near Lat. 38° 22.447' N., Long. 75° 4.318' W., then running 322° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.453' N., Long. 75° 4.325' W., then running northerly along the shore to 49th Street, at or near Lat. 38° 22.525' N., Long. 75° 4.318' W., then running 344° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.602' N., Long. 75° 4.347' W., then running 322° [(JTrue)] to 52nd Street, at or near Lat. 38° 22.682' N., Long. 75° 4.425' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.702' N., Long. 75° 4.420' W., then running 2° [(JTrue)] to Reedy Island, at or near Lat. 38° 22.765' N., Long. 75° 4.417' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.817' N., Long. 75° 4.377' W., then running 78° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.830' N., Long. 75° 4.298' W., then running 21° [(JTrue)] to 56th Street, at or near Lat. 38° 22.867' N., Long. 75° 4.280' W., then running 8° [(JTrue)] to 57th Street, at or near Lat. 38° 22.923' N., Long. 75° 4.270' W., then running 15° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.967' N., Long. 75° 4.255' W., then running 11° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.007' N., Long. 75° 4.245' W., then running 321° [(JTrue)] to a point on the shore south of the MD Route 90 Bridge, at or near Lat. 38° 23.097' N., Long. 75° 4.337' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point on the north side of the MD Route 90 Bridge, at or near Lat. 38° 23.190' N., Long. 75° 4.455' W., then running 18° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.335' N., Long. 75° 4.397' W., then running northerly along the shore to 66th Street, at or near Lat. 38° 23.385' N., Long. 75° 4.380' W., then running 49° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.407' N., Long. 75° 4.348' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.427' N., Long. 75° 4.343' W., then running 23° [(JTrue)] to a marsh point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.463' N., Long. 75° 4.323' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.620' N., Long. 75° 4.303' W., then running 9° [(JTrue)] to Swan Point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.925' N., Long. 75° 4.240' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.948' N., Long. 75° 4.237' W., then running 47° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 24.095' N., Long. 75° 4.033' W., then running 337° [(JTrue)] to Rusty Anchor Road, at or near Lat. 38° 24.432' N., Long. 75° 4.217' W., then running 325° [(JTrue)] to Bradley Road, at or near Lat. 38° 24.498' N., Long. 75° 4.277' W., then running 329° [(JTrue)] to Mooring Road, at or near Lat. 38° 24.567' N., Long. 75° 4.328' W., then running 0°

[(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 24.875' N., Long. 75° 4.327' W., then running 51° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 25.010' N., Long. 75° 4.118' W., then running northerly along the shore to Point Lookout Road, at or near Lat. 38° 25.162' N., Long. 75° 4.052' W., then running 97° [(JTrue)] to Shifting Sands Drive, at or near Lat. 38° 25.145' N., Long. 75° 3.877' W., then running 16° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 25.177' N., Long. 75° 3.865' W., then running northerly along the shore to Jamestown Road, at or near Lat. 38° 25.345' N., Long. 75° 4.035' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 25.440' N., Long. 75° 4.027' W., then running 335° [(JTrue)] to Newport Canal, at or near Lat. 38° 25.457' N., Long. 75° 4.037' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 25.520' N., Long. 75° 4.105' W., then running 341° [(JTrue)] to Heron Drive, at or near Lat. 38° 25.547' N., Long. 75° 4.117' W., then running northerly along the shore to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 25.578' N., Long. 75° 4.113' W., then running 3° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 25.602' N., Long. 75° 4.112' W., then running northerly along the shore to North Heron Drive, at or near Lat. 38° 25.640' N., Long. 75° 4.108' W., then running 7° [(JTrue)] to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 25.660' N., Long. 75° 4.105' W., then running northerly along the shore to 122nd Street, at or near Lat. 38° 25.703' N., Long. 75° 4.097' W., then running 4° [(JTrue)] to South Ocean Drive, at or near Lat. 38° 26.132' N., Long. 75° 4.062' W., then running northerly along the shore to the south side of Fenwick Ditch, at or near [Lat. 38° 26.513' N., Long. 75° 4.140' W.] Lat. 38° 26.563' N., Long. 75° 4.107' W.]; and east of a line beginning at a point on the north side of Fenwick Ditch, at or near Lat. 38° 26.718' N., Long. 75° 4.125' W., then running northwesterly along the shore to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 26.823' N., Long. 75° 4.307' W..]

(b) *All of the waters east of a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 26.855' N., Long. 75° 4.330' W.; then running [21°] 27° [(JTrue)] to a point on the Maryland-Delaware line, at or near Lat. 38° 27.075' N., Long. 75° 4.187' W.*

(2) [These] *The speed limit for the areas [have a 6-knot speed limit all year] described in §A(1) of this regulation is 6 knots.*

B. Fenwick Ditch.

(1) Fenwick Ditch Main.

(a) *Area. [encompasses the area] All of the waters north and east of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. [38° 26.718' N., Long. 75° 4.125' W.] Lat. 38° 26.563' N., Long. 75° 4.107' W., then running [183°] 329° (True) to a point on shore, at or near [Lat. 38° 26.513' N., Long. 75° 4.140' W.] Lat. 38° 26.855' N., Long. 75° 4.330' 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° [(JTrue)] 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.]*

(b) *Except as specified in §B(2)(a) of this regulation, the speed limit for the area described in §B(1)(a) of this regulation is 6 knots.*

(2) Fenwick Ditch Marsh.

(a) *Area. All of the waters enclosed by a line beginning at Lat. 38° 26.563' N., Long. 75° 4.107' W.; then running 329° True to a point defined by Lat. 38° 26.855' N., Long. 75° 4.330' W.; then running 127° True to a point defined by Lat. 38° 26.738' N., Long. 75° 4.132' W.; then running 26° True to a point defined by Lat. 38° 26.887' N., Long. 75° 4.039' W.; then running 117° True to a point defined by Lat. 38° 26.836' N., Long. 75° 3.914' W.; then running 175° True to a point defined by Lat. 38° 26.777' N., Long. 75° 3.908' W.; then running 187° True to a point defined by Lat. 38° 26.759' N., Long. 75° 3.911' W.; then running 181° True to a point defined by Lat. 38° 26.711' N., Long. 75° 3.912' W.; then running 207° True to a point defined by Lat. 38° 26.683' N., Long. 75° 3.930' W.; then running 197° True to a point*

defined by Lat. 38°26.662' N., Long. 75°3.938' W.; then running 226° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°26.637' N., Long. 75°3.971' W., then running 235° True to the point of beginning.

(b) The area described in §B(2)(a) has a minimum wake zone.

C. 94th Street Marsh.

(1) Area. [encompasses all the area] All of the waters enclosed by a line beginning at a point at the northeast corner of the 94th Street Canal, at or near Lat. 38° 24.610'N., Long. 75° 3.750' W., then running 280° [(JTrue)] to a point on the north side of the 94th Street canal, at or near Lat. 38° 24.687'N., Long. 75° 4.310' W., then running 24° [(JTrue)] to a point at the west tip of Devils Island, at or near Lat. 38° 24.768'N., Long. 75° 4.263' W., then running 27° [(JTrue)] to a point on the south side of the Old Landing Road canal, at or near Lat. 38° 24.993'N., Long. 75° 4.120' W., then running 95° [(JTrue)] to a point on the south side of the Old Landing Road canal, at or near Lat. 38° 24.983'N., Long. 75° 3.972' W., then running 103° [(JTrue)] to the south side of Old Landing Road, at or near Lat. 38° 24.977'N., Long. 75° 3.890' W., then running 138° [(JTrue)] to the south side of Old Landing Road, at or near Lat. 38° 24.768'N., Long. 75° 3.6520' W., then running 191° [(JTrue)] to the point of beginning.

(2) Personal watercraft (PWC) may not operate in [this] the area described in §C(1) of this regulation in excess of idle speed [all year].

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary of Natural Resources

Subtitle 18 BOATING—SPEED LIMITS AND OPERATION OF VESSELS

08.18.24 Severn River Vessel Management Area

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§8-703 and 8-704, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[24-192-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulations .01 and .02 under COMAR 08.18.24 Severn River Vessel Management Area.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to correct a minor typographical error in the current Lower Severn River speed zone area described in Regulation .01 and expand the current Cove of Cork speed zone area described in Regulation .02.

The description of the current Lower Severn River regulated area under Regulation .01 includes a point at or near Lat. 38° 7.952'N. However, that point was inaccurately documented and should be Lat 38° 57.952'N. Thus, this action is needed to update the coordinate in the regulation to accurately reflect the regulated area.

Additionally, this action will expand the existing Cove of Cork 6-knot speed zone area described in Regulation .02 by approximately 300 feet towards the Severn River. This expansion will mitigate destructive wake damage and safety concerns to both life and property while promoting safe vessel operations. The expanded area will have a 6-knot speed limit zone effective at all times, consistent with the current Cove of Cork speed zone.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Severn River Vessel Management Area – Regulations, Regulatory Staff, Department of Natural Resources - Fishing and Boating Services, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-4, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, or call 410-260-8300, or email to boatingregpubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through February 10, 2024. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.01 Severn River Main Stem — Speed Limits; Prohibited Zone.

A. The Severn River main stem areas, with their corresponding speed limits, are set forth below:

(1) (text unchanged)

(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'] 38° 57.952' 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)—(b) (text unchanged)

(3)—(7) (text unchanged)

B.—C. (text unchanged)

.02 Severn River South Shore — Speed Limits.

[The Severn River south shore areas, with their corresponding speed limits, are set forth below:]

A.—G. (text unchanged)

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.]

(1) Area. All of the waters upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 39° 0.205' N., Long. 76° 30.427' W., then running 3° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.310' N., Long. 76° 30.420' W.

(2) Except as otherwise restricted, the speed limit for the area described in §H(1) of this regulation is 6 knots.

I.—S. (text unchanged)

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary of Natural Resources