

WHITE WATER STREAM SEGMENT – Patapsco River

What has been proposed?

The Department has proposed updating the section of the Patapsco River designated as Class III white water. The current section as described in regulation is from Woodstock (Md. Rte. 125) to Glen Artney (Patapsco State Park—Old Dam). The reference to an “old dam” in Glen Artney is not completely clear; additionally, all of the Patapsco River dams have been removed, except for Daniels Dam, which is much further upstream than Glen Artney. The Department has proposed designating the Gun Road bridge as the new endpoint.

Why is this change necessary?

Updating the endpoint of the Class III section of the Patapsco River will properly apprise paddlers of potential dangers. The Department typically uses a physical landmark for its beginning and endpoints to make it easy for users to understand.

Who will this affect?

Paddlers on the Patapsco River.

When would this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the fall of 2025. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal proposal procedures if this concept moves forward.

Additional Information

Code of Maryland Regulations – [COMAR 08.18.01.08](#)

Class III (Intermediate): Rapids with moderate irregular waves occur, which may be difficult to avoid and which can swamp an open canoe. Complex maneuvers in fast current, and good boat control in tight passages or around ledges are often required. Large waves or strainers may be present but are easily avoided. Strong eddies and powerful current effects can be found, particularly on large volume rivers. Scouting is advisable for inexperienced parties. Injuries while swimming are rare. Self-rescue is usually easy, but group assistance may be required to avoid long swims.

Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies?

This idea was scoped with the Boat Act Advisory Committee at their meeting in January 2025 and with the public in February-March 2025.