

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources proposes to amend/add Regulation .01 - .02 under COMAR 08.18.36 The purpose of this action is to update and clarify existing boating laws and coordinates of certain boundaries. This will ensure safe boating on Maryland's waterways.

Items in [parenthesis] are being deleted; items in *italics* are being added.

Title 08

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Subtitle 18 BOATING — SPEED LIMITS AND OPERATION OF VESSELS

Chapter 36 Blackwater River

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

.01 Blackwater River.

The Blackwater River includes all the waters of the Blackwater River and its tributaries westerly of a line[from a point at or near Lat. 38°21'17.3"N., Long. 76°00'18.8"W., then running 338° True to a point on the shore at or near Lat. 38°21'49.6"N., Long. 76°00'35.6"W.] *beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 21.288' N., Long. 76° 0.313' W., then running 338° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 21.827' N., Long. 76° 0.593' W.*

.02 Blackwater River Prohibited Areas.

Except for employees and permittees of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and employees of the Department, an individual may not operate a vessel in the interior of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on the following portions of the Blackwater River from October 1 through March 31 each year:

A. All the waters southeasterly of a line[starting at a point on the north shore of the Blackwater River and Route 335 at the Big Blackwater Bridge at or near Lat. 38°26'25"N., Long. 76°08'38"W.,]*beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 26.308' N., Long. 76° 8.738' W.,* and then running southeast along the Refuge boundary in mid-channel of the Big Blackwater River to a point on the south shore of a cove which is referred to locally as Fisherman Cove where the Refuge boundary enters the marshland, at or near[Lat. 38°25'45"N., Long. 76°08'36"W] *Lat. 38° 25.652' N., Long. 76° 8.650' W.;*

B. All the waters northerly of a line beginning at a point on the north shore of Meekins Creek, at or near[Lat. 38°24'34"N., Long. 76°08'52"W.,] *Lat. 38° 24.562' N., Long. 76° 8.870' W.,* then running along the Refuge boundary in mid-channel of Meekins Creek eastward to a point on the eastern shore of Meekins Creek at or near[Lat. 38°24'46"N., Long. 76°09'42"W] *Lat. 38° 24.732' N., Long. 76° 7.663' W.;*

C. All the waters north and west of a line beginning at a point at the end of Blackwater Road at Barnes Landing, at or near[Lat. 38°23'24"N., Long. 76°06'18"W.,] *Lat. 38° 23.408' N., Long. 76° 6.280' W.,* and then running along the Refuge boundary following the north shore of Coles Creek *to the west entrance of Swan Pond, at or near Lat. 38° 23.420' N., Long. 76° 5.717' W., then running 126° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.402' N., Long. 76° 5.685' W., then continuing along the north shore of the creek to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.157' N., Long. 76° 5.218' W., then running 115° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.152' N., Long. 76° 5.205' W., then continuing along the north shore of the creek to a point on the west side of the Blackwater River, at or near Lat. 38° 23.162' N., Long. 76° 4.560' W., then running 93° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.160' N., Long. 76° 4.523' W., then continuing along the north shore of the river to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.295' N., Long. 76° 3.832' W., then running 11° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.302' N., Long. 76° 3.830' W., then continuing along the north shore of the river to the entrance of Backgarden Creek, at or near Lat. 38° 23.072' N., Long. 76° 2.903' W., then continuing along the north shore of Backgarden Creek to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.313' N., Long. 76° 2.427' W., then running 349° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.327' N., Long. 76° 2.430' W., then continuing along the north shore of the creek to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.448' N., Long. 76° 2.408' W., then running 76° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.453' N., Long. 76° 2.383' W. [to its junction with the Blackwater River, then following the Refuge boundary along the north shore of the Blackwater River east to a point at the junction of Backgarden Creek at or near Lat. 38°23'04"N., Long. 76°03'08"W., then following the north and west shores of Backgarden Creek to a point at the intersection of the common boundary between Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and Fishing Bay Wildlife Management Area at or near Lat. 38°23'26"N., Long. 76°02'26"W., then running along the common boundary eastward and northward to a point where this boundary enters the woodlands at or near 38°25'31"N., Long. 76°01'05"W]; and*

D. All the waters south and west of a line [starting]beginning at a point north of Windmill Point where the Refuge boundary enters the Little Blackwater River, at or near [Lat. 38°27'10"N., Long. 76°05'16"W.],Lat. 38° 27.172' N., Long. 76° 5.277' W., then running along the Refuge boundary in mid-channel southward to a point where the Refuge boundary turns east in the marshland, at or near [Lat. 38°26'09"N., Long. 76°05'14"W.],Lat. 38° 26.182' N., Long. 76° 5.207' W.

The proposed regulation will appeared in the Maryland Register on Thursday November 14, 2014, comments concerning this regulation will be accepted through Monday December 15, 2014. The regulation will be adopted on Tuesday December 30, 2014 and become effective on Monday January 19, 2015.

Comments may be sent to Michael Grant, Regulations Coordinator, Boating Services, Clean Waterways, Facilities and Regulations Division, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-4, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8013, or fax to 410-260-8453, or e-mail to Michael.Grant@maryland.gov

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