

Proposed Action on Regulations

For information concerning citizen participation in the regulation-making process, see inside front cover.

Symbol Key

- Roman type indicates existing text of regulation.
- *Italic type* indicates proposed new text.
- [Single brackets] indicate text proposed for deletion.

Promulgation of Regulations

An agency wishing to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations must first publish in the Maryland Register a notice of proposed action, a statement of purpose, an estimate of economic impact, an economic impact on small businesses, a notice giving the public an opportunity to comment on the proposal, and the text of the proposed regulations. The opportunity for public comment must be held open for at least 30 days after the proposal is published in the Maryland Register.

Following publication of the proposal in the Maryland Register, 45 days must pass before the agency may take final action on the proposal. When final action is taken, the agency must publish a notice in the Maryland Register. Final action takes effect 10 days after the notice is published, unless the agency specifies a later date. An agency may make changes in the text of a proposal. If the changes are not substantive, these changes are included in the notice of final action and published in the Maryland Register. If the changes are substantive, the agency must repropose the regulations, showing the changes that were made to the originally proposed text.

Proposed action on regulations may be withdrawn by the proposing agency any time before final action is taken. When an agency proposes action on regulations, but does not take final action within 1 year, the proposal is automatically withdrawn by operation of law, and a notice of withdrawal is published in the Maryland Register.

Title 08

DEPARTMENT 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

[23-286-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation **08.18.18 Ocean City—Back Bay Areas**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to expand the existing speed zone area south within Sinepuxent Bay to Channel Buoy 3. The current Isle of Wight Bay regulated area has a 6-knot speed limit effective at all times during the boating season. However, due to unsafe vessel activities and demonstrated safety concerns to both life and property, the Department is proposing to expand the current regulated area. This expansion of the current regulated area will mitigate demonstrated safety concerns to both life and property and promote safe vessel operations. The expanded area will have a 6-knot speed limit zone effective at all times during the boating season, consistent with the rule in the current Isle of Wight Bay 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 Worcester County — Sinepuxent Bay Regulations, Regulatory Staff, Department of Natural Resources, Fishing and Boating Services, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-4, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8300, or email to boatingregpubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through January 29, 2024. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.03 Isle of Wight Bay

A. Area. Isle of Wight Bay encompasses the area enclosed by a line beginning at the Oceanic Fishing Pier, at or near Lat. 38° 19.572'N., Long. 75° 5.473' W., then running 230° [(True)] *True* to the north end of Assateague Island, at or near Lat. 38° 19.445'N., Long. 75° 5.668' W., then running westerly along the shore to the west end of a jetty, at or near Lat. 38° 19.550'N., Long. 75° 5.827' W., then running [(True)] *southerly along the shore to a point on the shore at or near Lat. 38° 19.210'N, Long. 75° 6.079'W, then running 128° True to a point on the shore, at or near Lat. 38° 19.345'N, Long. 75° 6.297'W, then running northerly along the shore to a point on the shore, at or near Lat. 38° 19.610'N, Long. 75° 6.097'W,* then running easterly and northerly along the shore to the west end of the U.S. Route 50 bridge, at or near Lat. 38° 20.050'N., Long. 75° 5.810'W., then running 111° [(True)] *True* to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 19.977'N., Long. 75° 5.573' W., then running 18° [(True)] *True* to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 20.137'N., Long. 75° 5.507' W., then running 108° [(True)] *True* to Second Street, at or near Lat. 38° 20.088'N., Long. 75° 5.322' W., then running southerly following the shoreline to the point of beginning, including all tributaries. [This area has a 6-knot speed limit, during the boating season.]

B. The speed limit for the area described in §A of this regulation is 6 knots at all times during the boating season.

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary of Natural Resources