

Regulation Request Evaluation Criteria

Site Visits

Boat Act Advisory Committee (BAAC) members and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff will visit each site to gain a better understanding of the area and requested change.

Boating Congestion/Boating Safety

Consider current level and recent/anticipated changes in boat traffic, high speed boat traffic, typical boat traffic patterns/practices, number of and material increases in safety-related citations/warnings issued by the Natural Resources Police (NRP), etc.

Physical Features of Waterway

Consider impacts that the existing depth/width of a waterway may have on boating safety or support documented environmental impacts, etc.

Water-Based Activities

Consider impacts of action sports (wakeboarding, skiing, tubing, etc), boating types (sail, power, paddle), recreational and commercial fishing/crabbing, boat mooring(s), swimming, etc. on the overall use of the waterway.

Impacts of Regulation to Adjacent Areas/Waterways

Consider potential and/or more serious impacts if regulation displaces an activity to another portion of the same or other local waterways.

Boat-Generated Wakes

Absent extraordinary circumstances, a boat generated wake height of less than one foot impacting a dock, marine structure, or property (before any amplifying impact of an approaching shoreline) is not a basis for increased regulation. A boat wake height in excess of one foot, by itself, is not a basis for increased regulation. Consider impacts to piers and marinas in the area from wake action generated by boats slowing down and speeding up.

Environmental Concerns

Consider environmental concerns identified in the request as well as those assessed by DNR.