

Patuxent River

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources proposes to amend/add Regulation .01 - .04 under COMAR 08.18.20 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 20 Patuxent River

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

.01 Patuxent River.

The Patuxent River encompasses all the waters of the Patuxent River and its tributaries westerly of a line [from Lat. 38°19'08.91"N., Long. 76°25'15.64"W., running 120° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°18'34.12"N., Long. 76°23'57.74"W.] *beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 19.15' N., Long. 76° 25.27' W., then running 120° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 18.57' N., Long. 76° 23.97' W.*

.02 Upper Patuxent River.

The Upper Patuxent River encompasses the area [bounded by Lat. 38°38'37.44"N., Long. 76°41'34.83"W., Lat. 38°38'40.44"N., Long. 76°41'32.83"W., Lat. 38°38'37.44"N., Long. 76°41'32.83"W.] *shoreward of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 38.428' N., Long. 76° 41.642' W., then running 90° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 38.428' N., Long. 76° 41.610' W., then running 193° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 38.377' N., Long. 76° 41.625' W., then running 270° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 38.377' N., Long. 76° 41.657' W.* This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit all year. These coordinates are approximately 100 feet downriver and 200 feet upriver of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission pier, and extend approximately 150 feet from the shoreline.

.03 Patuxent River South Shore.

A. The Patuxent River south shore areas, with their corresponding speed limits, are set forth in §§B—F of this regulation.

B. Cockhold Creek encompasses the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°20'59.22"N., Long. 76°30'51.66"W., a line running 344° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°21'14.41"N., Long. 76°30'57.19"W.,] *at or near Lat. 38° 20.988' N., Long. 76° 30.857' W., then running 344° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 21.257' N., Long. 76° 30.953' W.,* and running to the head of the creek, including all tributaries. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

C. Lewis Creek encompasses the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°18'46.03"N., Long. 76°28'36.18"W., a line running 093° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°18'45.91"N., Long. 76°28'33.42"W.,] *at or near Lat. 38° 18.752' N., Long. 76° 28.607' W., then running 65° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 18.763' N., Long. 76° 28.575' W.,* and running to the head of the creek. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

D. Mill Creek—St. Mary's County encompasses the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°20'0.6"N., Long. 76°30'21.1"W., running 326° True to a point at the west side of the mouth of Mill Creek, Lat. 38°20'7.9"N., Long. 76°30'27.3"W.,] *at or near Lat. 38° 20.007' N., Long. 76° 30.345' W., then running 323° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 20.123' N., Long. 76° 30.455' W.,* and running to the head of the creek, including all tributaries. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 mph)] speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

E. Town Creek encompasses the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°18'59.67"N., Long. 76°28'40.42"W., a line running 215° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°18'50.66"N., Long. 76°28'48.43"W.,] *at or near Lat. 38° 18.987' N., Long. 76° 28.675' W., then running 212° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 18.845' N., Long. 76° 28.788' W.,* and running to the head of the creek, including all tributaries. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit all year.

F. Chalk Point Canal encompasses the entire canal [from] *south of* a line beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°33'49.5"N., Long. 76°40'47.2"W. and running 164° True to a point Lat. 38°33'47.00"N., Long. 76°40'46.30"W.] *at or near* Lat. 38° 33.822' N., Long. 76° 40.797' W., then running 158° (True) to a point, *at or near* Lat. 38° 33.790' N., Long. 76° 40.780' W., and from there to the head of the canal. This area has a minimum wake zone [at all times] *all year*.

G. Sam Abell Cove encompasses the area beginning at a point at the east side of the mouth of Sam Abell Cove, [Lat. 38°19'57.3"N., Long. 76°30'13.8"W., running 300°W True to a point at the west side of the mouth of Sam Abell Cove, Lat. 38°20'0.6"N., Long. 76°30'21.1"W.,] *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.955' N., Long. 76° 30.228' W., then running 299° (True) to a point, *at or near* Lat. 38° 20.007' N., Long. 76° 30.345' W., and running to the head of the cove. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 mph)] speed limit on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, all year.

.04 Patuxent River North Shore.

A. The Patuxent River north shore areas, with their corresponding speed limits, are set forth in §§B—G of this regulation.

B. Back Creek encompasses the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°19'29.98"N., Long. 76°27'20.89"W., a line running 186° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°19'20.76"N., Long. 76°27'22.10"W.,] *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.503' N., Long. 76° 27.352' W., then running 185° (True) to a point, *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.348' N., Long. 76° 27.368' W., and running to the head of the creek. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit all year.

C. Mill Creek—Calvert County encompasses the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°19'35.6"N., Long. 76°27'.07.2"W., a line running 106° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°19'34.2"N., Long. 76°27'.01.1"W.,] *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.597' N., Long. 76° 27.125' W., then running 103° (True) to a point, *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.570' N., Long. 76° 26.980' W., and running to the head of the creek, including St. Johns Creek. *This area excludes Leason Cove, beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 38° 19.880' N., Long. 76° 26.245' W., then running 47° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 19.923' N., Long. 76° 26.185' W.* This area has a restricted 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit all year.

D. Solomons Harbor encompasses the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°19'22.66"N., Long 76°27'00.31"W., a line running 189° True to a point Lat. 38°19'10.16"N., Long. 76°27'02.83"W., then 270° True to a point on shore, Lat. 38°19'10.16"N., Long. 76°27'08.63"W.,] *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.387' N., Long. 76° 27.005' W., then running 189° (True) to a point, *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.170' N., Long. 76° 27.048' W., then running 270° (True) to a point, *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.170' N., Long. 76° 27.137' W., and running upstream to a line beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°19'34.2"N., Long. 76°27'01.1"W., and running 296° True to a point Lat. 38°19'35.6"N., Long. 76°27'07.2" W.,] *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.570' N., Long. 76° 26.980' W., then running 283° (True) to a point, *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.597' N., Long. 76° 27.125' W., and running along the shore to a line beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°19'28.93"N., Long. 76°27'20.89"W., a line running 186° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°19'20.76"N., Long. 76°27'22.10"W.] *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.503' N., Long. 76° 27.352' W., then running 185° (True) to a point, *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.348' N., Long. 76° 27.368' W. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit all year.

E. St. Leonard Creek.

(1) All of the waters of upper St. Leonard's Creek north of a line beginning at a point on the east shore of St. Leonard's Creek, at or near Lat. 38° 24.980' N., Long. 76° 29.103' W., then running 256° (True) to a point on the west shore of St. Leonard's Creek, at or near Lat. 38° 24.953' N., Long. 76° 29.245' W., and east of a line beginning at a point on the south shore of an unnamed cove of St. Leonard's Creek, at or near Lat. 38° 25.222' N., Long. 76° 29.007' W., then running 346° (True) to a point on the north shore off the unnamed cove, at or near Lat. 38° 25.303' N., Long. 76° 29.033' W., and south of a line beginning at a point on the east shore of St. Leonard's Creek, at or near Lat. 38° 25.437' N., Long. 76° 29.247' W., then running 270° (True) to a point on the west shore of St. Leonard's Creek, at or near Lat. 38°25.437'N., Long. 76° 29.567' W. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

(2) All of the waters of lower St. Leonard's Creek upstream of a line beginning at a point on the shore of Peterson Point, at or near Lat. 38° 23.341' N., Long. 76° 30.370' W., then running 108° (True) to a point on the east shore of St. Leonard's Creek, at or near Lat. 38° 23.226' N., Long. 76° 29.928' W., and downstream of a line beginning at a point on the east shore of St. Leonard's Creek, at or near Lat. 38° 24.980' N., Long. 76° 29.103' W., then running 256° (True) to a point on the west shore of St. Leonard's Creek, at or near Lat. 38° 24.953' N., Long. 76° 29.245' W. This area has a 35-knot daytime and a 25-knot nighttime speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays during the boating season.

F. Hungerford Creek encompasses the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°20'58.1"N., Long. 76°28'14.6"W., a line running 098° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°20'58.0"N., Long. 76°28'13.2"W.,] *at or near* Lat. 38° 20.970' N., Long. 76° 28.238' W., then running 104° (True) to a point, *at or near* Lat. 38° 20.965' N., Long. 76° 28.213' W., and running to the head of the creek. This area has a minimum wake zone [at all times.] *all year*.

G. Leason Cove—Calvert County encompasses the area upstream of a line [running from the northeast end of the point of land at or near Lat. 38°19'53"N., Long. 76°26'15"W., to the southwesterly end of a point of land at or near Lat. 38°19'56"N., Long. 76°26'11"W.] *beginning at a point, at or near* Lat. 38° 19.880' N., Long. 76° 26.245' W., then running 47° (True) to a point, *at or near* Lat. 38° 19.923' N., Long. 76° 26.185' W. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit all year.

H. Upper Island Creek.

(1) The western Island Creek headwaters encompass the area beginning at [Lat. 38°25'42.2"N., Long. 76°32'33.5"W., a line running 90° True to the east shore Lat. 38°25'42.2"N., Long. 76°32'27.4"W.,] a point, at or near Lat. 38° 25.703' N., Long. 76° 32.558' W., then running 90° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 25.703' N., Long. 76° 32.457' W., and running to the head of the creek. This area has an [all time] idle speed limit for all personal watercraft *all year*.

(2) The eastern Island Creek headwaters encompass the area beginning at [Lat. 38°25'35.4"N., Long. 76°32'9.1"W., and running 180° True to a point on the south shore Lat. 38°25'31.8"N., Long. 76°32'9.1"W.,] a point, at or near Lat. 38° 25.590' N., Long. 76° 32.152' W., then running 180° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 25.530' N., Long. 76° 32.152' W., and running to the head of the creek. This area has an [all time] idle speed limit for all personal watercraft *all year*.

The proposed regulation will appeared in the Maryland Register on Friday December 6, 2013, comments concerning this regulation will be accepted through Monday February 10, 2014. The regulation will be adopted on Tuesday February 25 , 2014 and become effective on Monday March 17, 2014.

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

Joseph P. Gill, Secretary
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