

Anne Arundel County — Bodkin Wharf Creek

What is being considered?

The department received a request to modify the current boating regulation in Bodkin Wharf Creek to 6 knots at all times during the year.

What is the current regulation for the area?

The request is to change the speed limit for the area described in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.18.19.03.

[COMAR 08.18.19](#) Patapsco River.

[Regulation .03](#) Patapsco River South Shore

B. Bodkin Creek.

(1) Wharf Creek and Locust Cove encompass the area beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 7.362'N., Long. 76° 26.678' W., then running 311° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 7.445'N., Long. 76° 26.800' W., and running to the head of the creeks. This area has a 6-knot speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

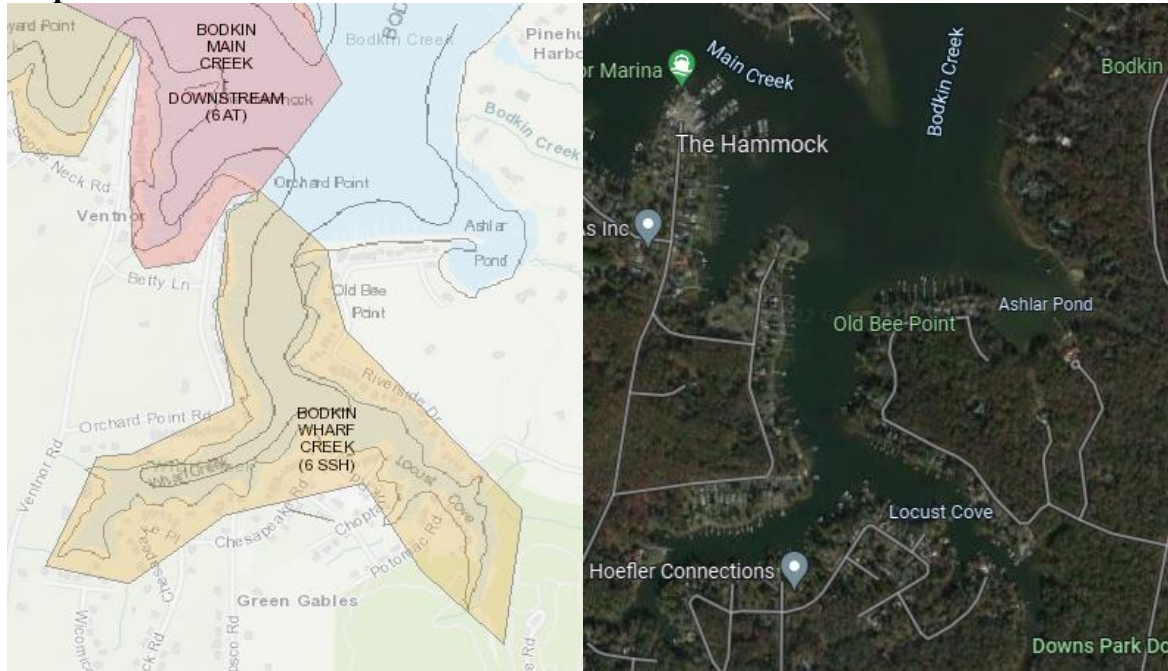
Why was this change requested?

The requestor stated: When we first moved in, a majority of the homes were just seasonal or weekend homes. In the 16 years we have been here, we have seen a 75% increase in homes that are now year round residences. Along with that, there has been a significant increase in boat traffic. Many homes have more than one boat. Our neighbors for instance have three jet skis, a pontoon boat and a center console. There are also two small marinas at the head of our creek that also adds to additional boat traffic on the creek.

We have six grandchildren who love to swim off of our pier. If they bring friends, we can have as many as 12 children swimming from our pier. On several occasions, we've had to get the kids out of the water because of boats coming dangerously close to pier while the kids are in the water. Other times, we have had multiple jet skis in the creek going in excess of 50 MPH. This is happening not only on the weekends but also during the week.

Larger boats are also going faster than they should and causing significant damage. Neighbors have experienced damage to piers, bulkheads and boats tied up to piers. There has also been significant damage due to erosion. There was a small island off of Old Bee Point that had been there forever. Now, due to erosion, particularly over the last several years, the island is completely gone.

Maps of the Area



Who will this affect?

- All waterway users (recreational and commercial), business owners in the area, and property owners in the area.
- There are two marinas in the area.

Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies?

The department and the Boat Act Advisory Committee (BAAC) are gathering information and will meet in September to fully discuss and [evaluate](#) the request. Please [join our mailing list](#) to be notified when this request will be evaluated by the BAAC.

What is the specific regulatory action?

Amend Regulation .03 under COMAR 08.18.19 Patapsco River.

When could this be effective?

This change could be effective in 2023, however, at this time, the department cannot determine if the change will be adopted nor the exact date that it could be effective. The department will follow our normal scoping and proposal procedure. The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issues so that management actions can be developed.

After the public has had an opportunity to comment on possible management actions during the scoping process, the department considers these comments and develops an appropriate management strategy.

If the action is necessary and appropriate, the rules will be promulgated following the Administrative Procedures Act described in Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article Annotated Code of Maryland.

- The General Assembly's Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee reviews the regulatory proposal for fiscal and legal analysis.
- The proposal is printed by the Division of State Documents in the Maryland Register.
- A 30-day public comment period begins on the day of publication.
- After review of the comments, the department may adopt the changes.
- If the department adopts the changes, they become effective after a notice is published in the Maryland Register that announces approval and the effective date.

Notes Regarding This Summary

This summary is prepared in accordance with the requirements of State Government Article, §10-110, Annotated Code of Maryland. It is intended to help you understand the potential or revised rules. This summary is not intended to replace or supersede these rules, but to facilitate understanding and compliance with the rules. The department will clarify or update the text of the summary as the idea moves through the regulatory process.