

Anne Arundel County — Grays Creek

What was requested?

The department received a request to expand the current 6-knot speed regulation. Currently, there is a 6-knot speed regulation beginning at the entrance to Grays Creek on the north shore of the Magothy River. The constituent is requesting expanding the 6-knot restriction out to red day mark #2, then further extend the 6 knot restriction from the Grays Creek entrance to Long Cove Point and to the Little Island, then over to Hickory Point and back to the entrance of Grays Creek. This is a total length from the Grays Creek entrance to red day marker #2 of approximately 333 meters.

What is the current regulation for the area?

The request is to expand the area described in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.18.13.05.

[COMAR 08.18.13](#) Magothy River

[Regulation .05](#) Magothy River North Shore

E. Grays Creek encompasses the area northwest of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 5.280' N., Long. 76° 27.877' W., then running 20° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 5.327' N., Long. 76° 27.855' W., and running to the head of the creek. This area has a 6-knot speed limit all year.

Why was this change requested?

The requestor stated: This area is the major thoroughfare. There is traffic coming in and going out of Grays Creek for vessels stored at the marina, for many powerboats, sailboats, and refueling fishing charter boats as well as Tow Boat US and homeowners' boats. As a result, there is major traffic, and it can become quite congested. Congestion justifies the 6-knot restriction. However, in addition to congestion, jet skiers are also coming into the area at hard right angles to the thoroughfare from the east and west. That adds to the waterway congestion. To make matters worse, they are coming in at speeds of 30-50 mph and jumping the waves of the other boats coming in the thoroughfare. There is a serious safety concern.

Maps of the Area

https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Documents/regulations/BAAC-Grays%20Creek_2021.pdf

Who could this affect?

- All types of boating activities occur in this area; therefore, it could affect all waterway users (recreational and commercial), business owners in the area, and property owners in the area.
- There are not any marinas in the extended area of request.
- There are piers in the area that could receive the wake action from boats slowing down and speeding up.
- The large bay frontage is a water skiing 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.

When will this be effective?

This change could be effective in 2022, 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.