

Anne Arundel County —Yantz Creek

What was requested?

The department received a request to expand the current regulated area of Yantz Creek approximately 400 feet down the waterway, south by southwest, towards the Severn River. The speed limit in the current area is 6 knots at all times during the year.

What is the current regulation for the area?

The request is to expand the area described in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.18.24.03.

[COMAR 08.18.24](#) Severn River Vessel Management Area.

[Regulation .03](#) Severn River North Shore — Speed Limits.

B. Yantz Creek. This encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 39° 4.097' N., Long. 76° 33.818' W., then running 167° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39°4.022'N., Long. 76°33.796'W. Except as otherwise restricted, the speed limit for this area is 6 knots.

Why was this change requested?

The requestor stated: To minimize wake action in the immediate area of a natural sandbar that is exposed during low tide, which over the years has become a popular destination for all types of recreational boating and sport fishing enthusiasts. Large wakes continually bombard the sandbar area and cause unsafe conditions, particularly at low tide when waterway users have beached their watercraft in order to enjoy the sandbar. The popularity is causing heavy congestion and hazardous boating conditions, shoreline erosion due to boat wakes, and difficulty for surrounding property owners' use of their piers. On weekends and holidays the sandbar has become a crowded point of boat gathering, swimming, alcohol consumption, and general all day partying. This is creating a dangerous situation with boats traveling at high rates of speed in this vicinity. Constant wake action is damaging a new living shoreline, which is located approximately 300 yards west of the channel.

Maps of the Area

https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Documents/regulations/BAAC-Yantz%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 requested area.
- There are piers in the area that could receive the wake action from boats slowing down and speeding up.

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.