

Harford County — Susquehanna River at Havre de Grace

What is being considered?

The department received a request to create a boating regulation in Susquehanna River in the area of Havre de Grace. The affected area would be 6 knots at all times during the boating season. The requested area is approximately from the "Green 17" in the Susquehanna Channel extending north to the upstream side of the Susquehanna Lock House and Museum.

What is the current regulation for the area?

The request is to expand the area and change the speed limit for the area described in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.18.26.06.

[COMAR 08.18.26](#) Susquehanna River.

[Regulation .06](#) Havre de Grace.

Havre de Grace encompasses all of the area enclosed by a line beginning at the Alliance Street sea wall, at or near Lat. 39° 32.502'N., Long. 76° 5.037' W., then running 90° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 32.502'N., Long. 76° 4.888' W., then running 355° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 32.742'N., Long. 76° 4.913' W., then running 338° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 32.870'N., Long. 76° 4.980' W., then running 272° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 32.873'N., Long. 76° 5.128' W. This area has a 6-knot speed limit on Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays during the boating season.

Why was this change requested?

The requestor stated: We feel that persons and property are being put at risk and the environment is being damaged daily from recreational boat wakes. People who are playing, working and living here depend on the safety and enjoyment of our waterfront.

Marinas and marine business impacted include, from south to north: Havre de Grace City Yacht Basin, boat launch and fuel dock, Penn's Beach Marina at Heron Harbor (private slips and condos), Log Pond Marina (private and commercial slips, Sail on Moon Shadow charters and condos with slips), Canvas Back Cove (private slips) Tidewater Marina- including Baysail sailing school, yacht charters- a working boat yard (fuel dock, mooring field, High and dry and boat launch ramp), Hutchins Park (parasail adventure, M/V Summer Breeze boat rides and farmers market), Havre de Grace Seaplane Base, American Legion Post with Marina and Moorings, Jean Roberts Park with boat launch, Havre de Grace Marina at Water Street Private slips- boat launch, Kayak and Paddleboard rentals with a working boat yard, the Susquehanna Lock House and Museum.

Residences and other business impacted include from South to North: The Promenade Grille, Promenade boardwalk - park at Concorde Point Lighthouse and beach, condos at Heron Harbor, Log Pond condos, Canvas Back Cove condos, Seneca Point condos, La Banque de Fleuve - Wedding- reception and event venue, Tidewater Grille with boat dock, David R Craig Park, the Lockhouse Museum grounds used for events.

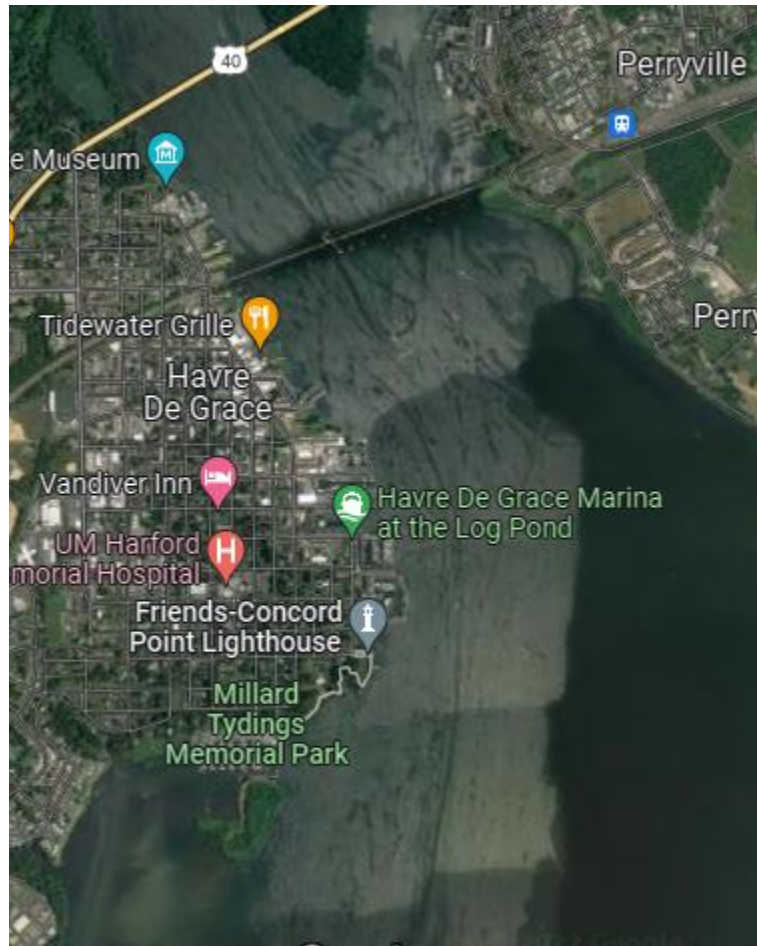
The requested speed zone would also protect the multitude of fisherman, kayakers, paddleboarders and boaters that enjoy our waters and would benefit from the safety and comfort of the proposed zone.

I am a professional captain and run commercial and private boats all over the US, I have never seen another area where I would be allowed to "plow water" past businesses', homes and recreational areas like can happen in Havre de Grace.

Who will this affect?

- Pleasure boats and personal watercraft (motorized vessels). The commercial vessels that we have in town are Tug boats with Granite barges, they already travel less than 6 knots and being displacement hulls, they do not leave a wake, they are not an issue.
- This could directly affect the Stansbury Yacht Basin fueling dock and marina and the Wilson Point Park boat ramp.

Maps of 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 .06 under COMAR 08.18.26 Susquehanna 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.