

Washington County — Potomac River Upstream of Dam 4 (Updated)

What is being considered?

The department received a request to create a new speed zone in the Potomac River below Dam Number 5, approximately 10 miles above Dam Number 4, and approximately 1/2 mile above Potomac Fish and Game (near the Falling Waters, WV River Lots). The request is to create an additional 6-knot speed limit zone that is effective at all times during the boating season (April 15 – October 15). This area will be located within the existing Dam Number 4 area which currently has a 35-knot speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year. Initially, the department believed the Dam Number 4 area needed to be extended to accommodate the request, however, after further analysis no extension of the Dam Number 4 area is needed. The department has updated the maps to better identify the specific request.

What is the current regulation for the area?

The request is to create an additional 6-knot speed limit zone within the Dam Number 4 regulated area described in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 08.18.21.02.

[COMAR 08.18.21](#) Potomac River.

[Regulation .02](#) Upper Potomac River.

E. Dam Number 4. Dam Number 4 encompasses the area starting 200 yards upriver of the Dam, at or near Lat. 39° 29.780'N., Long. 77° 49.713' W., then running 192° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 29.633'N., Long. 77° 49.755' W., and extending upriver to a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 33.683'N., Long. 77° 52.550' W., then running 297° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 33.817'N., Long. 77° 52.883' W. This area has a 35-knot speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

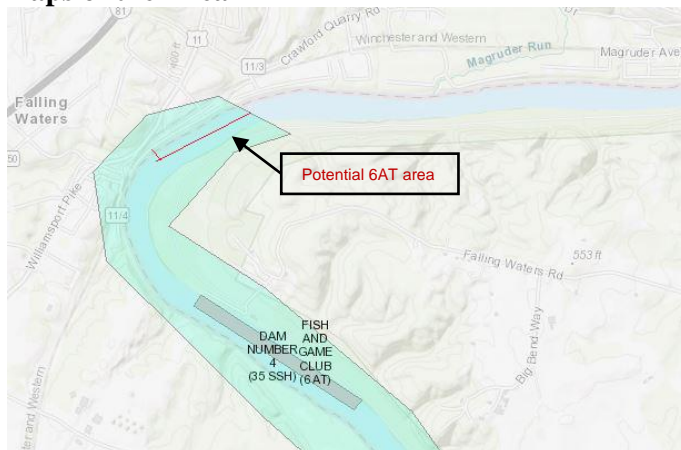
Why was this change requested?

The requestor stated: Area is a campground with a boat ramp for approximately 100 campers putting boats in and out of Potomac on West Virginia side it can be a danger from the wakes of passing boats children swimming in the area could be injured from wakes of passing boats

Who will this affect?

- Campground, Pleasure boats, Personal watercraft (motorized vessels), Shoreline property owners.

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 .02 under COMAR 08.18.21 Potomac 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.