

**Subtitle 18 BOATING — SPEED LIMITS
AND OPERATION OF VESSELS**

08.18.29 White Hall Bay

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §8-704, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[21-110-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation .03 under **COMAR 08.18.29 Whitehall Bay**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to expand the speed zone in Mill Creek. The Department received a request to remove both the Mill Creek proper (Northern Branch) and Martin Cove speed zone demarcation lines and establish a new demarcation line in the main stem of Mill Creek. Over the past decade there has been increasing congestion in this area due to both boaters and other waterway users. Some of these waterway users have created excessive wakes that have caused damage to personal property. The new line will begin just prior to the intersection of the waterways, approximately 235 yards down the main stem of Mill Creek waterway. The proposed action removes the descriptions for both Martin Cove and Mill Creek proper (Northern Branch) and establishes a new speed zone demarcation line for the combined and extended area. The proposed action establishes a 6 knot speed limit on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays all year for the entire area, which is the current rule for the Mill Creek proper and Martins Cove waterways. The Department expects that by extending the 6 knot speed limit to the new line, both safety and property concerns will be addressed.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Mill Creek Regulations, Regulatory Staff, Department of Natural Resources Fishing and Boating Services, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-4, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8417, or email to boatingregspubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through September 27, 2021. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.03 Mill Creek.

A. (text unchanged)

[B. Martins Cove encompasses the area beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.162' N., Long. 76° 27.457' W., then running 172° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.035' N., Long. 76° 27.435' W., and running to the head of the cove. This area has a 6-knot speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

C. Mill Creek proper encompasses the area beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.162' N., Long. 76° 27.457' W., then running 97° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.150' N., Long. 76° 27.335' W., and running to the head of the creek. This area has a 6-knot speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.]

B. Martins Cove and Mill Creek Proper.

(1) Area. All of waters upstream of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39°0.035' N, Long. 76°27.435' W; then running 97° True to a point, at or near Lat. 39°0.025' N, Long. 76°27.298' W.

(2) The speed limit for the area described in §B(1) of this regulation is 6 knots on every:

(a) Saturday;

(b) Sunday; and

(c) State or federal holiday.

[D.] C.—[E.] D. (text unchanged)

JEANNIE HADDAWAY-RICCIO

Secretary of Natural Resources

**Subtitle 18 BOATING — SPEED LIMITS
AND OPERATION OF VESSELS**

08.18.33 Deep Creek Lake

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §8-704, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[21-109-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation .03 under **COMAR 08.18.33 Deep Creek Lake**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to update and clarify existing boating laws and coordinates of certain boundaries.

There is an inlet between Beckman’s Peninsula and Harvey’s Peninsula that is very narrow, so waterway users are restricted from towing in that area. The coordinates for the restricted area were incorrect. The proposed action describes the correct area. The action also reorganizes the text to make it clear and to follow style guidelines.

The proposed action modifies the speed limit in the portion of Deep Creek Lake known as North Glade Cove. The Cove is narrow with many obstacles and is heavily used by recreational vessels, both powered and non-powered. The proposed action defines the area with coordinates. The defined area is designated as a minimum wake zone. Minimum wake zone is defined in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR 08.18.01.03) and means that a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel in excess of the slowest possible boat speed necessary to maintain steerage under prevailing wind and sea conditions not to exceed 3 knots (3.5 statute miles per hour or 5.6 kilometers per hour). This action will increase the safety of the boating community and decrease damage to the surrounding shoreline and dock structures.

These changes will ensure safer boating on Maryland’s waterways.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.