

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulations
Department of Natural Resources
(DLS Control No. 14-050)**

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

These regulations clarify existing boating speed limits and update boundary coordinates and descriptions for the Potomac River and its tributaries.

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Regulations of COMAR Affected

Department of Natural Resources:

Boating – Speed Limits and Operation of Vessels: Potomac River:
COMAR 08.18.21.01-.06

Legal Analysis

Background

The Department of Natural Resources is in the process of updating the boundary coordinates and descriptions of waterways subject to the State's boating regulations. According to the department, the updates are based on current charts, more accurate surveys, and global positioning system coordinates.

Summary of Regulations

The regulations update the boundary coordinates for portions of the Potomac River and its tributaries, including the Upper Potomac, the Potomac River North Shore, prohibited areas of the Potomac River, minimum wake zones in the Potomac River, and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge area. In addition, this action repeals parenthetical miles-per-hour speed limit descriptions and makes other minor technical changes.

Legal Issue

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The department cites §§ 8-703 and 8-704 of the Natural Resources Article as authority for these regulations. Section 8-703 broadly describes the department's powers and duties under the Maryland State Boating Act, including the duty to plan a regulatory program for the State's waterways and to designate and mark boating channels. Section 8-704 grants the department broad authority to adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the Maryland State Boating Act.

This authority is correct and complete. The regulations comply with the legislative intent of the law.

Fiscal Analysis

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact

The department advises that the regulations have no impact on State or local governments. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Impact on Budget

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact

The department advises that the regulations have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Contact Information

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