

**Maryland General Assembly  
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulations  
Department of Natural Resources**  
(DLS Control No. 15-419)

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**Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact**

The regulations alter vessel speed limits and operating requirements, including coordinates and boundaries, in the Severn River Vessel Management Area.

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: Severn River Vessel Management Area:  
COMAR 08.18.24.01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, and .07

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**Legal Analysis**

**Summary of Regulations**

The regulations alter vessel speed limits and operating requirements, including coordinates and boundaries, in the Severn River Vessel Management Area.

**Legal Issues**

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

**Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent**

The Department of Natural Resources cites §§ 8-703, 8-704, and 8-725.2 of the Natural Resources Article as statutory authority for the regulations. These sections are in Title 8, Subtitle 7, which is the “State Boat Act.” The State Boat Act, in accordance with § 8-702, is intended to “foster the development, use, and enjoyment of all the waters of Maryland.”

First, § 8-703 requires the department to administer the provisions of the subtitle, which includes developing plans for the improvement and promotion of the waters of the State for recreational purposes, promoting the safety of life and property, and designating and marking channels. Second, § 8-704 authorizes the department to adopt regulations necessary to carry out

the provisions of the subtitle. Finally, § 8-725.2 requires the department to develop a comprehensive management plan for the use of vessels on the Severn River and its tributaries. Among other things, the plan must include areas designated for specified uses, noise level limits of vessels, and maximum speed limits of vessels.

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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