

Speed Limits and Operation of Vessels - Definitions

The purpose of this action is to update and clarify existing boating laws and definitions. This will ensure safe boating on Maryland's waterways.

Items in **[parenthesis]** are being deleted; items in *italics* are being added.

Title 08

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Subtitle 18 BOATING—SPEED LIMITS AND OPERATION OF VESSELS

Chapter 01 General

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§8-703 and 8-704, Annotated Code of Maryland

.01 - .02 (text unchanged)

.03 Definitions.

A.-B. (text unchanged)

(1) – (3) (text unchanged)

(4) "Controlled ski area" means an area marked by the Department which encompasses a slalom ski course which is permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the [River and Harbor Act of 1899, §10, 33 U.S.C. §403] *Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, (33 U.S.C. 403)*, as amended.

(5) (text unchanged)

(6) "[Designated] *Permitted* beach area" means an area recognized by the *Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)* that provides access for the public, community, or homeowner's association to the waters of the State, and used exclusively for swimming or bathing[.] *and is in compliance with a MDE permitted beach as defined in COMAR 26.08.09.01.*

(7) "Designated rowing area" means an area which is [acceptable to] *designated by* the Department for rowing activities by individuals in rowing shells or similar devices.

(8) – (10) (text unchanged)

(a) *The Federal Government*, State, any county, municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, or any of their units;

(b) – (c) (text unchanged)

(11) "Slalom ski course" means an area approximately 850 feet in length by 75 feet in width, marked by inflated balls or bladders secured to anchors using flexible hose for the top 3 feet of connection, containing a maximum of 26 balls or bladders, and which is permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the [River and Harbor Act of 1899, §10, 33 U.S.C. §403] *Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, (33 U.S.C. 403)*, as amended.

(12) (text unchanged)

(a) (text unchanged)

(i)[In] *At a boat speed in excess of 6 knots [(6.9 MPH)] (6.9 statute miles per hour, or 11.1 kilometers per hour); or*

(ii) (text unchanged)

(b) (text unchanged)

(i) [In] *At a boat speed in excess of 6 knots [(6.9 MPH)] (6.9 statute miles per hour, or 11.1 kilometers per hour); or*

(ii) (text unchanged)

(c) "20 knots (23 MPH)" means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel *at a boat speed in excess of 20 knots [(23 MPH)] (23 statute miles per hour or 42.6 kilometers per hour).*

(d) "26 knots (30 MPH)" means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel *at a boat speed in excess of 26 knots [(30 MPH)] (30 statute miles per hour or 55.6 kilometers per hour).*

(e) "35 knots (40.25 MPH)" means a person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel *at a boat speed in excess of 35 knots [(40.25 MPH)] (40.25 statute miles per hour or 74.5 kilometers per hour).*

(f) "Minimum wake zone" means 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)*.

(g) "Idle speed" means the operation of a vessel at 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)*.

(13) "Steerage" means the minimum rate of motion required for the [steerage] *steering* apparatus (rudder or motor) of a vessel to have effect.

(14) (text unchanged)

(a) "*All times*" means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each January 1, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding December 31.

[(a)] (b) "All year" means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each January 1, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding December 31.

[(b)] (c) "Boating season[, April 15 through October 15]"[,] means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each April 15, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding October 15.

[(c)](d) "Nonboating season[, October 16 through April 14]"[,] means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each October 16, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding April 14.

[(d)] (e) "Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays" means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each Saturday, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding Sunday, and during the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. and ending at 12 midnight each holiday officially recognized by the State.

[(e)](f) "Sunrise to sunset" means the period during the daytime hours beginning at sunrise and ending at sunset, [officially recognized] *as computed* by the [Nautical Almanac Office,] U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.

[(f)](g) "Sunset to sunrise" means the period during the nighttime hours beginning at sunset and ending at sunrise, [officially recognized] *as computed* by the [Nautical Almanac Office,] U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.

[(g)](h) "Weekdays" means the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Monday and ending at 12 midnight the following Friday.

(15) – (17) (text unchanged)