

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION

[58 PA. CODE CH. 111]

Special Regulations Counties; Mercer County

[55 Pa.B. 6544]

[Saturday, September 13, 2025]

The Fish and Boat Commission (commission) proposes to amend Chapter 111 (relating to special regulations counties). The commission is publishing this proposed rulemaking under the authority of 30 Pa.C.S. (relating to Fish and Boat Code). The proposed amendment relates to boating regulations at the portion of Lake Wilhelm that is owned and managed by the commission.

A. Effective Date

This proposed rulemaking, if approved on final-form rulemaking, will go into effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

B. Contact Person

For further information on this proposed rulemaking, contact Robert J. Schefter, Esq., P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, (717) 705-7810. This proposed rulemaking is available on the commission's website at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/fishandboat.html>.

C. Statutory Authority

The amendment to § 111.43 (relating to Mercer County) is proposed under the statutory authority of 30 Pa.C.S. § 5124 (relating to particular areas of water).

D. Purpose and Background

The specific purpose and background of this proposed rulemaking are described in more detail under the summary of proposal.

E. Summary of Proposal

Lake Wilhelm is a 1,860-acre impoundment in New Vernon Township, Mercer County. It is bisected by Interstate 79. The 1,440-acre portion of Lake Wilhelm southeast of Interstate 79 is within Maurice K. Goddard State Park and is owned and managed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). DCNR permits the operation of boats powered by internal combustion motors and prohibits the use of motors in excess of 20 horsepower. As such, an amendment to § 111.43 is required to bring the commission's regulations into alignment with DCNR's posted restrictions for Lake Wilhelm.

The 240-acre portion of Lake Wilhelm northwest of Interstate 79 is owned and managed by the Game Commission (PGC) as part of State Game Lands 270. The PGC has regulations in place for

State Game Lands lakes. Specifically, as stated in § 135.41 (relating to State game lands), these lakes are restricted to electric motors only, and boats may not exceed slow, no-wake speed, unless otherwise posted by PGC. Therefore, there is no need for the language already found in § 135.41 to be made part of Chapter 111.

The Interstate 79 causeway over Lake Wilhelm is a recognizable boundary between State Game Lands 270 and Maurice K. Goddard State Park, which simplifies the division of regulations for boaters. Both DCNR and PGC staff are in favor of this amendment.

The commission proposes that § 111.43 be amended to read as set forth in Annex A.

F. *Paperwork*

This proposed rulemaking will not increase paperwork and will not create new paperwork requirements.

G. *Fiscal Impact*

This proposed rulemaking will have no adverse fiscal impact on the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions.

H. *Public Comments*

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments, objections or suggestions about this proposed rulemaking to the Executive Director, Fish and Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, within 30 days after publication of this notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Comments submitted by facsimile will not be accepted.

Comments also may be submitted electronically to RA-pfbcregulations@pa.gov. Electronic comments submitted in any other manner will not be accepted.

TIMOTHY D. SCHAEFFER,
Executive Director

Fiscal Note: 48A-365. No fiscal impact; recommends adoption.

Annex A

TITLE 58. RECREATION

PART II. FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION

Subpart C. BOATING

CHAPTER 111. SPECIAL REGULATIONS COUNTIES

§ 111.43. Mercer County.

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(b) *Lake Wilhelm—Maurice Goddard State Park.* The operation of boats powered by internal combustion motors is permitted [except from a point approximately 200 yards north of the Interstate 79 causeway over Lake Wilhelm upstream to the Game Commission Propagation

Area above the Sheakleyville Causeway (State Route 1018, Milledgeville Road)] southeast of Interstate 79. The use of motors in excess of 20 horsepower is prohibited. Regulations on Lake Wilhelm northwest of Interstate 79 are as posted by the Game Commission.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 25-1255. Filed for public inspection September 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m.]

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[Top](#)[Bottom](#)