

The NOAA Vessel Speed Rule Will Devastate Coastal Economies

NOAA's proposed North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Strike Reduction Rule expansion uses flawed data and will harm coastal economies.

What's at Stake?

The rule would lead to a reduced demand for, and a devaluation of, small recreational boats, devastating the recreational boating industry and the coastal economies it supports.

\$230 billion in national economic impact

- The recreational boating industry contributes \$230 billion in national economic impact, which would be put at risk with this rule.

800,000 jobs

- 800,000 jobs are supported by the recreational boating industry nationwide.

Who's Affected?

Recreational boating is not a summer-only activity. Along the East Coast and nationwide, thousands of boaters and businesses would be harmed by the rule.

63,000 small recreational boats

- This rule would directly impact more than 63,000 recreational boats.

36,000+ businesses

- The rule would jeopardize the more than 36,000 businesses supported by recreational boating, including fishing and charter businesses, marinas, tackle shops, and coastal tourism businesses like hotels and restaurants.

What's Wrong with the Data?

NOAA used incorrect data in the proposed rule, vastly underestimating its economic impact and fundamentally misrepresenting how small recreational boats operate.

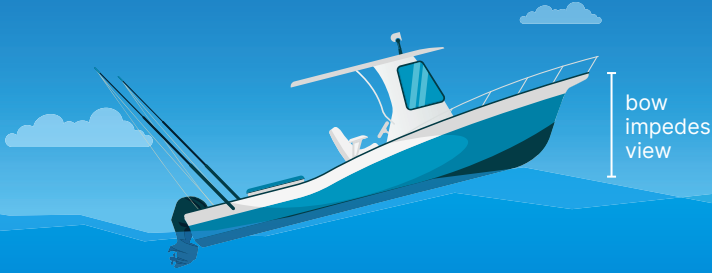
- **No Distinction Between Small Boats and Large Vessels**
 - The rule makes no distinction between the drafts of small recreational boats, which typically have a maximum draft of less than two meters, versus a 1,000-foot cargo ship with a draft of 10 meters.
- **Flawed Estimates**
 - The data used by NOAA to craft the rule vastly underestimates the number of boats impacted, and directly contradicts U.S. Coast Guard data.
- **No Environmental Impact Statement**
 - NOAA declined to conduct an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposal, thereby ignoring the true impact of the proposed rule.



What's the Solution?

The Biden administration must withdraw the proposed vessel speed rule expansion and pursue a more balanced and effective technology-focused path forward.

NOT ON PLANE
Less Visibility



ON PLANE
Maximum Visibility



The NOAA Vessel Speed Rule Will Force Boaters Out of the Water

NOAA's proposed North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Strike Reduction Rule expansion threatens boater safety and the ability to effectively navigate the water.

The Proposed Rule Puts Boater Safety at Risk

Unlike large ocean-going and commercial vessels, small recreational boats rely on speed to plane, which is necessary to provide the stability required to avoid capsizing. Particularly in unpredictable weather, currents, winds, and other conditions, traveling at speeds as low as 10 knots (11 mph) increases risk and restricts visibility.

The Proposed Rule Eliminates the Ability to Effectively and Efficiently Navigate the Water

With a 10-knot speed restriction (11 mph – the speed of a bicycle), a trip to fishing zones – up to 60 nautical miles offshore – could take up to six hours each way, making it economically unviable to fish in these areas and devastating the small businesses that rely on the fishing industry.



The Solution

The Biden administration must withdraw the proposed rule expansion and pursue a more balanced and effective technology-focused path forward.