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Understanding NOAA's Proposed Speed Regulation

David Dickerson
Vice President, Government PR
National Marine Manufacturers Association



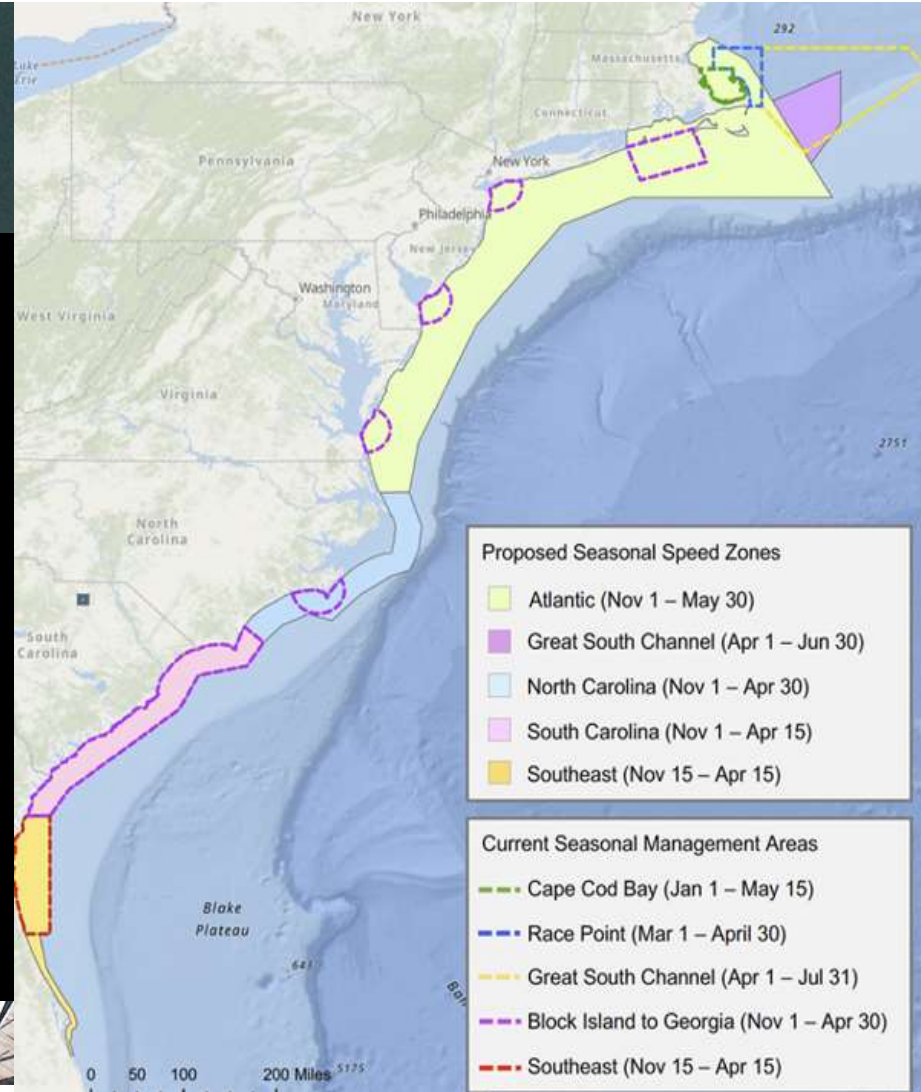
What's Happening

- NOAA is proposing an expansion of significant speed restrictions along the Atlantic coast, from Massachusetts to central Florida, to protect the North Atlantic right whale.



Proposed Changes

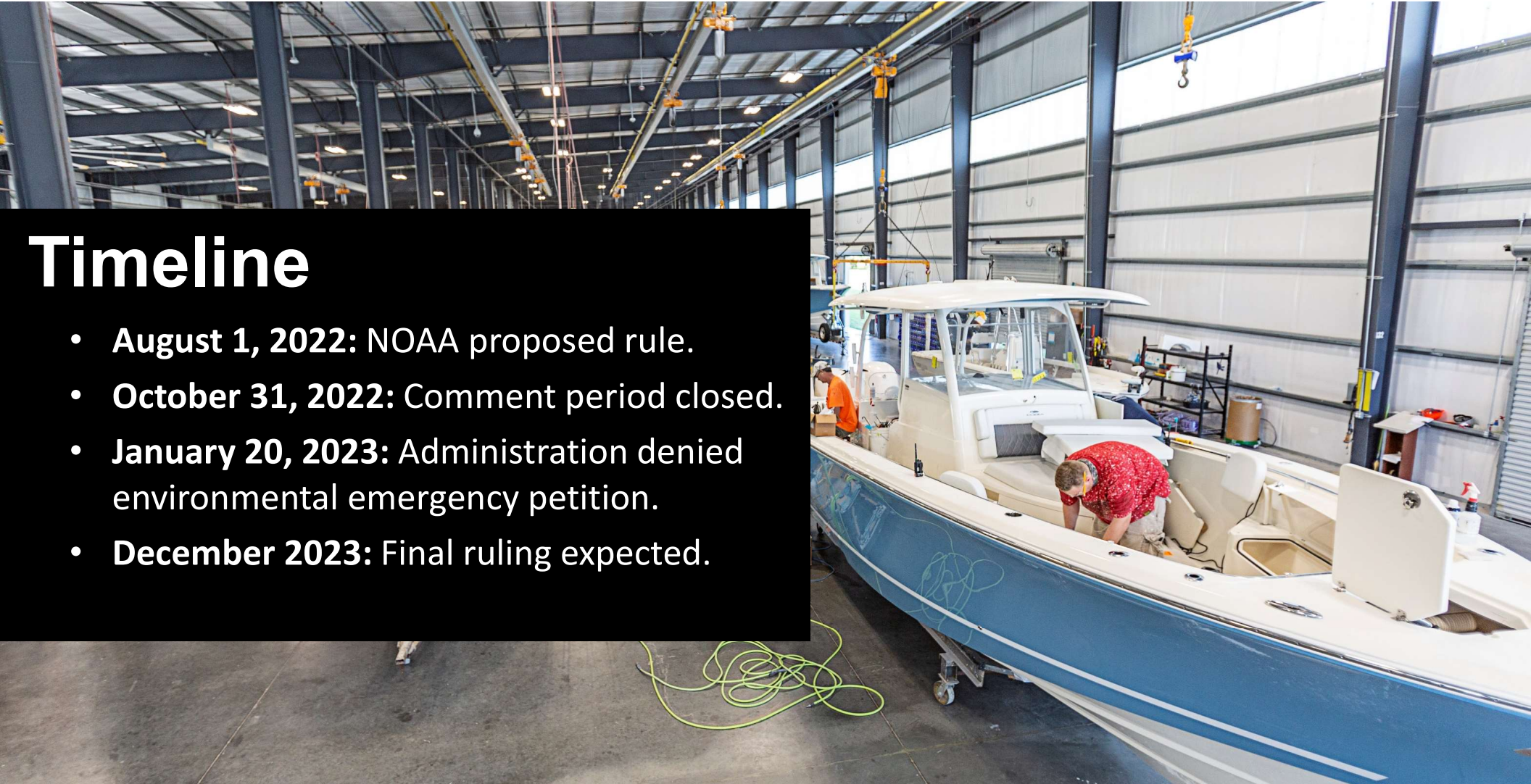
- Broaden the current 10-knot speed restriction to include vessels 35 feet and above, down from 65 feet.
- Extend the speed restriction zones to cover virtually the entire Atlantic coast, as far as 90 miles from shore.
- Increase the duration of enforcement periods for up to 7 months.



Why It Matters

- Jeopardizes the economic contributions of the \$230B recreational boating and fishing industry, and the 340,000 jobs supported along the Atlantic coast.
- Impacts 63,000 registered vessels, significantly more than projected by the Administration.
- Puts boater safety at risk.





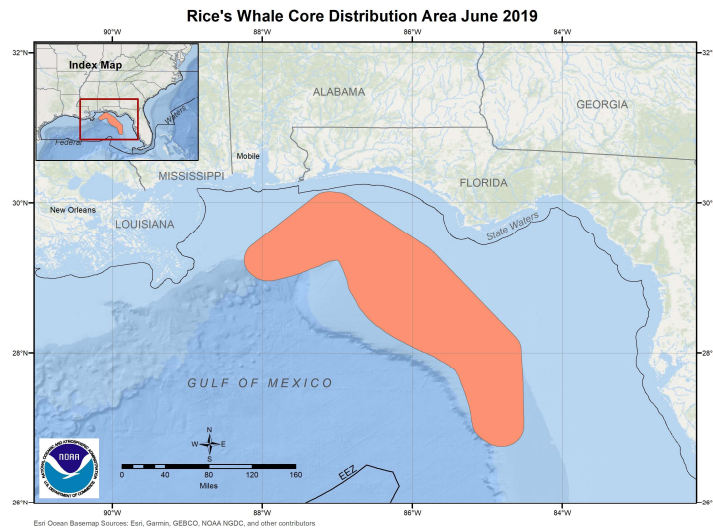
Timeline

- **August 1, 2022:** NOAA proposed rule.
- **October 31, 2022:** Comment period closed.
- **January 20, 2023:** Administration denied environmental emergency petition.
- **December 2023:** Final ruling expected.

Which body of water is next?

Endangered and Threatened Species; Petition To Establish a Vessel Speed Restriction and Other Vessel-Related Measures To Protect Rice's Whales

A Proposed Rule by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on 04/07/2023



What can Congress do?

- Pass the bipartisan Protecting Whales, Human Safety and the Economy Act of 2023. (H.R.4323/S.1833)
- Support the FY2024 House Appropriations CJS Subcommittee, which provides \$5 million to NOAA for the North Atlantic right whale near real-time monitoring and mitigation program and prohibits NOAA from changing existing vessel speed regulations until this program is implemented.

What can Congress do?

Include provisions in the U.S. Coast Guard Reauthorization Bill to:

- Prohibit vessels Automatic Identification System (AIS) data, information, or transmissions from being used as the primary means of enforcing vessel speed restrictions on recreational boats 65 feet and under; and
- Require NOAA to consult the Coast Guard, along with the National Boating Safety Advisory Committee, to produce accurate economic impact estimates in developing vessel speed reduction rule changes.

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Questions?

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ddickerson@nmma.org