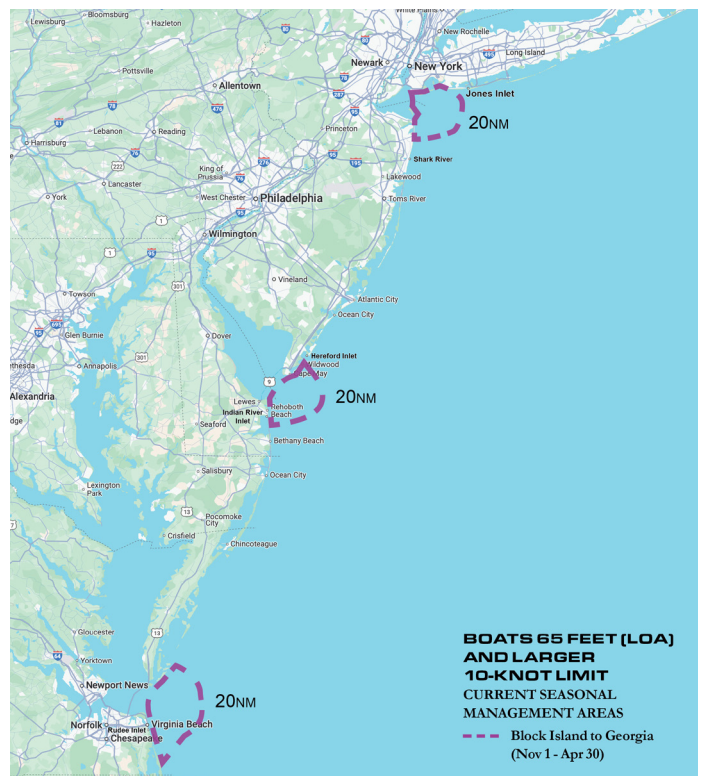
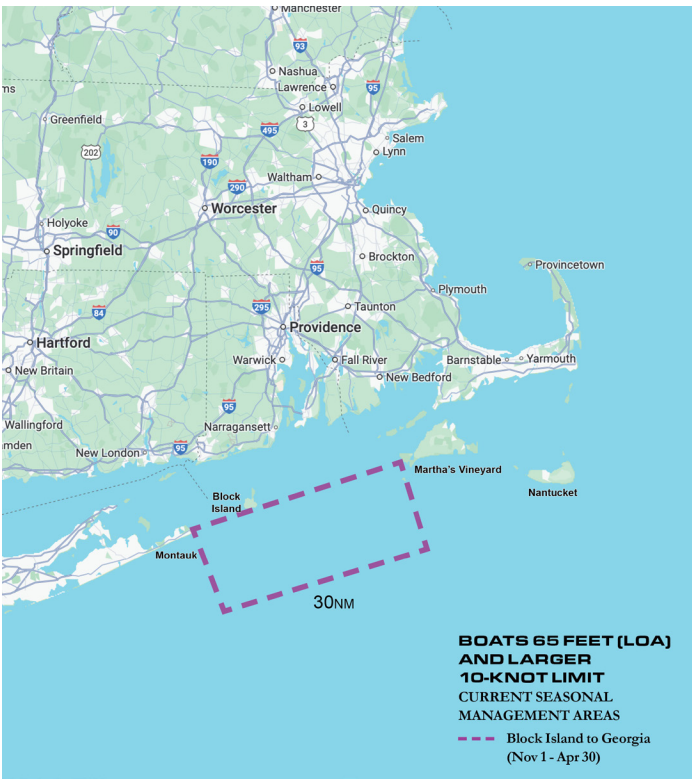




Current Slow Zones Begin Nov. 1



As Viking seeks alternatives to the government’s proposed expansion of East Coast speed limits to protect the North Atlantic right whale, here’s a reminder of the EXISTING 10-knot slow zones for vessels 65’ (LOA) and larger that start in November.

“These NOAA restrictions have been in place since 2008, and many boat owners have been unaware of them,” says John DePersenaire, Viking’s Director of Government Relations and Sustainability. “This is part of our effort to raise awareness to increase safety for both mariners and the endangered right whale.”

A 10-knot limit is in effect from Nov. 1 to April 30 in six Seasonal Management Areas (SMAs) from Martha’s Vineyard, MA, to just south of Savannah, GA. The Block Island (RI) SMA extends about 30 nautical miles (nm) off Block Island. Boundaries of the other five SMAs from New York to just south of Savannah extend about 20 nm offshore.

A 10-knot SMA is also in effect from Nov. 15 to April 15 from Sapelo Island, GA, to Saint Augustine, FL, extending about 30 nm. Distances in the maps here reflect the typical range from the shoreline to the farthest eastern boundary of each SMA. Distances may vary slightly depending on specific points on the coast.

NOAA says it has stepped up its enforcement of the existing speed rules; you can update your charts for SMA data by clicking here. Click here for more information from NOAA.

NOAA aims to broaden the 10-knot restriction to boats 35’ (LOA) and larger and expand the zones as far out as 90 nm. Viking and the marine industry for 2-plus years have been fighting the proposal while facilitating solutions through technology to track the whales.

The changes, which would have devastating effects on our industry, are still in the rule-making process; a decision is expected in mid-November. Stay tuned.

