



# TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

*The White Marlin Capital of the World*

The Board of Port Wardens  
Town of Ocean City  
P.O. Box 158  
Ocean City, Maryland 21842

August 30, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

As cited in the code, Article II Section 106, the Board of Port Wardens would like to remind all contractors and property owners that the “20% rule” is in place to help insure safe navigation on our waterways and canals.

Sec. 106.38 (1)

*“Approved construction including docks, wharves, piers or mooring piles may extend into the waterway for a maximum distance of 20 percent of the width of the waterway, not to exceed a total of 50 feet over wetlands and waterway from the fastland, provided that a distance of at least 40 feet in width shall remain open between either side of the waterway for navigation purposes.”*

The Board has been made aware on numerous occasions of navigational issues regarding the size of boats moored up and down canals throughout the Town of Ocean City. As our waterways narrow as a result of re-bulkheading it is apparent now that strict adherence to the “20% rule” must be followed. This letter is a courtesy notice that the “20% rule” will be strictly enforced going forward in addition to the 40 feet or prevailing canal width measurement.

We ask that all property owners be mindful of this and extend the courtesy to their neighbors to ensure the safety of all boaters.

Sincerely,

Blake McGrath  
Chairman, Board of Port Wardens

Cc: Jake Doub, Chief Building Official

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