

AHOY, SKIPPER!



Oregon's waterways have long been the transportation corridor serving industry and recreation. This use is protected but increasingly congested waterways, larger boats and heavily developed shorelines are intensifying a conflict that could lead to restrictions.

Please... Don't wake me

In 2005, the Marine Board considered a petition to create a "low wake zone" on a portion of the lower Willamette River. The Board tabled the idea but directed staff to address the problem along a broader section of the river through improved law enforcement and more effective outreach. These efforts are now underway.



Avoid New Regulation

Boat operators are responsible for any damage or injury caused by their boat's wake. A smaller number of large boats disregard the damage their boat's wake can cause. These large wakes create serious personal safety issues for other powerboats, paddlers, swimmers, and people on docks and recreating along the shore. This causes angry river users and waterfront homeowners to seek regulatory changes that could restrict recreational boating.



Stricter Enforcement

Marine law enforcement has been directed to seek out boats that create dangerous and damaging wakes. When traveling through developed areas, watch your wake, avoid 'plowing' through the water, and tell your fellow boaters to do the same.



The Law

ORS 830.305 Unsafe operation. A person commits the crime of unsafe operation of a boat if the person operates a boat in a manner that endangers or would be likely to endanger any person or property. *Fine: Maximum \$499*

ORS 830.315 Reckless operation; speed. (1) A person commits the crime of reckless operation of a boat who operates a boat carelessly and heedlessly in willful or wanton disregard of the rights, safety or property of others. *Fine: Maximum \$6,250*



Oregon State Marine Board

P.O. Box 14145
Salem, OR 97309-5065