

Fishing Smaller Coastal Rivers

*Let's all
get along*



Fishing is about enjoying friends, taking pleasure in the environment and, hopefully, catching a fish. Observing good boat and bank-fishing etiquette will prevent boating and fishing regulatory restrictions. *Be patient, and share the water.* Help everyone enjoy the water.

Boat Anglers

- Just like you have a right to boat on Oregon's coastal rivers, bank anglers have a right to fish them, too. Bank access is often very limited. Share the hole. Fish twice, move along.
- Use your anchor sparingly in popular holes. Anchoring interrupts the flow of boats and prevents access by bank anglers. If a hole is crowded with bank anglers, move along.
- Boat away from bank anglers to avoid interrupting their fishing. If boating away would put you over holding water, communicate your intentions to float by the bank anglers to avoid spooking the fish.
- Leave spawning salmon or steelhead alone. Redds appear as oval-shaped patches of gravel that are lighter in color than surrounding gravel.
- Minimize motor use on smaller rivers. Drift boats do not plane – increased throttle provides little increase in speed but creates a larger wake and more noise. Have patience and travel slowly. If motoring back up stream means disrupting bank anglers, limit your trips.
- Fish On: Give the person with a fish on room to play and land the fish. Reel in your lines, move away.

Bank Anglers

- Share the hole – acknowledge and work with the boater. You take a turn, they get a turn. Invite them to fish through, then return to fishing as they are safely past.
- Boating is a legal, traditional activity. Like you, boats have a right to be there. If a boat user is restricting your ability to fish, ask them to modify their activity so you can also fish. If they ignore you, adjust your activity until they leave.
- In areas where boat use is common, don't wade to
(over)

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the middle of the channel or to the top of your waders. Likewise, don't cast across the river and expect boats to not pass through. You cannot legally restrict navigation.

- When fishing narrow, fast water, watch carefully for boats and let them pass. They have limited control in these waters. Don't place yourself or fishing gear in restricted areas unless you can quickly move out of the way.
- Clean up – Always pack out all garbage, fishing gear and anything else you carried in. Carefully collect all loose fishing line and properly dispose of it. Leave no trace.
- Fish On: Please give the person with a fish on room to play and land the fish. Reel in your lines, move away.

Things to Know

- Cutting someone's line out of anger can constitute harassment. At the very least, it will escalate conflict.
- Throwing rocks or casting weights or hooks at someone can constitute assault.
- Operating your boat in a way that can or does cause damage or injury is "Unsafe Boating." This includes damage or injury from your boat wake.
- Unsafe operation with a purposeful disregard for others' safety is "Reckless Boating."
- Boating Under the Influence – Makes bad situations worse; \$6,250 fine.
- Trespass – For privately owned lands, boaters and bank anglers must stay below the ordinary high water mark. You must have permission to cross private property to access public water. Respect private lands. Carry out your garbage, do not build campfires, remove all human waste. For more information, ask for a copy of "Public Use of Oregon's Rivers and Lakes."
- Report illegal activity. Poaching, trespass, dumping or other illegal activities cannot be corrected if they are not reported. Report to Oregon State Police or county sheriff. Provide as much detail as possible – boat "OR" number, license number, physical description, location, time, etc. Photos or video may be helpful, too.

Law Enforcement Phone Numbers

Curry County	541-247-3250
Coos County.....	541-396-3121
Lane County	541-682-8599
Lincoln County.....	541-265-4277
Tillamook County.....	503-815-3316
Clatsop County.....	503-325-8635

* Emergencies – dial 9-1-1