

NEWS

Oregon State Marine Board
Boat Oregon



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Marine Board Approves Rules, Other Items

The Oregon State Marine Board approved several administrative rules and opened rulemaking during their quarterly Board meeting, held on January 22, in Salem.

The Board adopted rules to allow the use of electric motors at slow-no wake speed on Gold Lake in Lane County after receiving a petition in August. The passage of HB 3168 grants authority to the Marine Board to allow boat operations by electric motors at slow-no wake speeds on named lakes at the discretion of the Board. Relating to this authority, the Marine Board received another petition to allow electric motors on North and South Twin Lakes in Deschutes County. The Board opened rulemaking and directed staff to explore designations and criteria used by other state regulatory agencies for handicapped or disabled persons and explore rule concepts that would allow the use of electric motors at slow-no wake speeds for physically challenged individuals.

The Board also approved the following items:

- Amending the personal watercraft operating rules to allow for youth competitions and sanctioned training;
- Amending rules to remove public record fees from administrative rules and instead, refer to Department of Administrative Services (DAS) policy.

The Board initiated rulemaking for the following items:

- Personal flotation device labeling rules for consistency with US Coast Guard labeling rules;
- Amending rules to remove the requirement of written change notifications for First Aid/CPR certification expiration dates for registered Outfitters and Guides;
- Amending rules to reflect changes in US Coast Guard fire extinguisher standards.

The Board also listened to public testimony from homeowners, environmental groups, wakesport enthusiasts, and other stakeholders regarding boating activities on the Willamette River from the Newberg Pool (RM 30-50) to downtown Portland. Agency staff updated the Board on Rule Advisory Committee discussions and the Towed Watersports Education requirement for boat owners/operators engaged in wakeboarding and wake surfing in the Newberg Pool. The Board gave staff direction to draft amended rules for the Newberg Pool and bring back rules for potential adoption at their April Board meeting.

The agency will solicit written public comment on draft rules and other approved items.

To view the meeting materials, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/osmb/info/Pages/Board-and-Public-Meetings.aspx>.

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*The Marine Board is directly funded by boaters in the form of registration, title, and permit fees, as well as through marine fuel taxes. **No lottery, general fund tax dollars or local facility parking fees** support the agency or its programs. Boater-paid fees support the boating public through boating safety services (on-the-water law enforcement, training, and equipment), boating safety education, grants for the construction and maintenance of boating access facilities, and environmental protection programs. For more information about the Marine Board and its programs, visit www.boatoregon.com.*