

LOCAL BOATING REGULATIONS

NEWBERG POOL (WILLAMETTE RIVER) RULES

Boat.Oregon.gov | 503-378-8587



Rulemaking Timeline

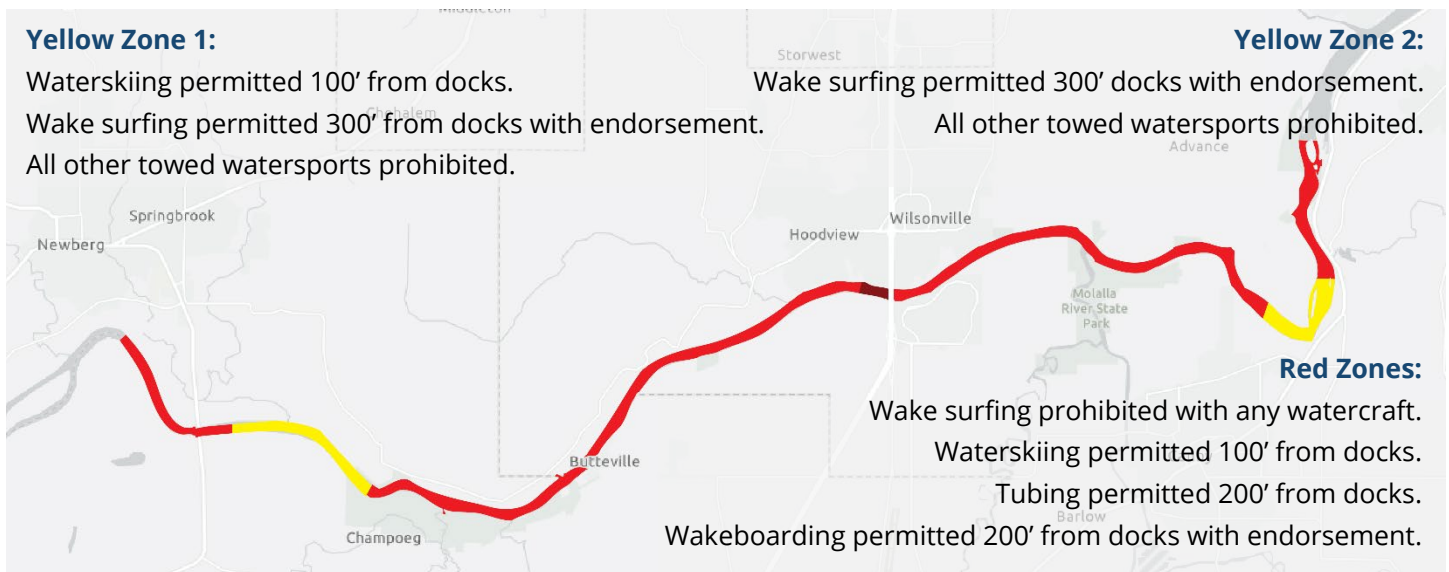
- 2010:** Due to the steady increase in the use of specialty boats for towed watersports, the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) adopts rules to prohibit the use of wake-enhancing devices (WEDs) in the Newberg Pool of the Willamette River.
- 2010 – 2017:** Technology evolves, the size and ballast capacity of “wake boats” increases, and enforcement of the WED ban becomes challenging.
- January, 2018:** OSMB opens the rulemaking process for the Newberg Pool due to legislative interest and the WED ban’s loss of efficacy. A Rule Advisory Committee (RAC) is convened to assist with rule development.
- January, 2019:** After considering input from the RAC and submitted public testimony, OSMB repeals WED ban and adopts zonal concept for wake sports in the Newberg Pool. These rules completely restrict wake surfing in ~50% of the 20-mile Pool and require all towed watersports to be practiced outside of requisite distances from residential docks. These rules are in place for 2019 boating season.
- July, 2019:** The Oregon State Legislature passes HB 2352 which creates a Towed Watersports Education Program within OSMB and requires additional education for those participating in wake surfing and wakeboarding in the Newberg Pool. The bill also directs OSMB to set a maximum loading weight for boats used for wake surfing and wakeboarding in rule. Boats above this weight would be ineligible from receiving the necessary decals and therefore ineligible from participating in these towed watersports in the Newberg Pool. This legislation takes effect January 1, 2020.
- October, 2019:** The Marine Board hears public testimony on the effectiveness of rules, reopens rulemaking, and directs staff to propose zone adjustments to further restrict wake surfing for boats of all sizes. Another RAC is convened. The Board also votes to adopt a 10,000 lb. loading weight limit for wake surfing and wakeboarding in the remaining three miles of the Newberg Pool per HB 2352.
- January, 2020:** HB 2352 takes effect. OSMB begins issuing Towed Watersports Education Endorsements per HB 2352 to applicants that complete an education course. Towed Watersports Motorboat Certificates, in the form of a large decal, are issued to owners of boats with a loading weight of 10,000 lbs. or below.



May, 2020: The Marine Board adopts the current regulatory framework for the Newberg Pool based in part on input from the RAC and other stakeholders. These rules restrict wake surfing to approximately 3 miles of the Newberg Pool in which residential docks are not present. Distance requirements for other towed watersports remain unchanged. The new rules take effect July 1, 2020. An overview of the current regulations is provided below.

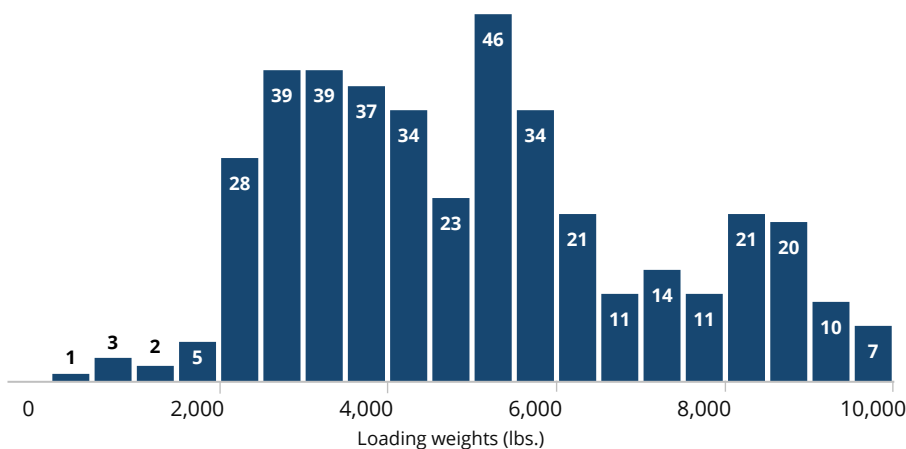
Current Regulations for the Newberg Pool

In the Newberg Pool (River Miles 30-50), people operating for the purposes of wakeboarding or wake surfing are required to carry a Towed Watersports Education Endorsement. Boats towing surfers or wakeboarders must also display a Towed Watersports Motorboat Certificate verifying that the boat meets weight requirements for this area.



Snapshot of the Towed Watersports Education Program for the Newberg Pool

Distribution of Boat Loading Weights



As of February 23, 2021, **631** applicants have successfully passed their exam and received their Towed Watersports Education Endorsement. Additionally, **406** boats have been certified to receive their Towed Watersports Motorboat Certificate. The average loading weight (combined dry weight and factory ballast capacity) of these boats is **5079 lbs.**