



NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 250

OREGON STATE MARINE BOARD

FILED: 05/26/2026 10:45 AM

ARCHIVES DIVISION SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Modifies motor use on the Siletz River and its tributaries

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 07/20/2026 11:55 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

A public rulemaking hearing may be requested in writing by 10 or more people, or by a group with 10 or more members, within 21 days following the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Oregon Bulletin or 28 days from the date the Notice was sent to people on the agency mailing list, whichever is later. If sufficient hearing requests are received, the notice of the date and time of the rulemaking hearing must be published in the Oregon Bulletin at least 14 days before the hearing.

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NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

The rule preserves traditional boating uses along and prevents user conflict on the Siletz River upstream of Jack Morgan Park boat ramp. The rule allows the use of small boat motors between Jack Morgan Park boat ramp and Old Mill Park boat ramp and restricts the use of motors upstream of Old Mill Park boat ramp and all tributaries above Jack Morgan Park boat ramp. This will minimize conflict between motorized and nonmotorized uses of the river. It will also prevent high-speed travel in this section of the river.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

Marine Board meeting minutes and materials from April 2025, October 2025, January 2026, and April 2026. Siletz River Rules Advisory Committee meeting minutes and materials from July 2025, August 2025, September 2025, October 2025 and January 2026.

Rulemaking documents are available for public inspection at the State Marine Board, Director's Office, between 8:30 am - 4:00 pm on regular workdays, Monday-Friday.

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE:

This amendment is not anticipated to impact racial equity in the state. The amendment places restrictions on the use of motors on section of the Siletz River. The rules will apply equally to all users in the identified section of river.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The Siletz River is a popular seasonal destination for salmon and steelhead angling. The fishing season is 4-5 months dependent upon water levels and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations. The proposed rule applies to approximately 29 miles of river, with 11 miles allowing the use of 15 or less horsepower motors, and 18 miles prohibiting the use of motors. Approximately 15-20 fishing guides regularly guide on the river.

Without the use of motors, fishing guides will potentially be negatively impacted based upon the guide's ability to carry the same number of anglers and the number of days they can safely row the river. Motorized guides indicated that they could lose 20-30% of their seasonal income for guiding on the Siletz River. That impact can potentially be reduced by adapting their guiding activity to the proposed rule.

Fishing guides that do not use motors will potentially be positively impacted. They are not restricted on locations they can row, and they may potentially guide the anglers that the motorized guides cannot accommodate.

There is no indication that the number of anglers using the Siletz River will be significantly impacted, resulting in minimal economic impact to the local communities.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

(1) No state agencies, units of local government, or members of the public will be economically affected by these rules. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol and Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division will be responsible for enforcing the motor restrictions. (2)(a) Small businesses primarily consisting of approximately 15-20 seasonal fishing guides have indicated they could lose 20-30% of their seasonal income from guiding on the Siletz River. (2)(b) Minimal administrative costs will be incurred by businesses to comply with the rule. (2)(c) No additional costs for equipment or labor will be incurred by businesses to comply with the rule.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Small businesses were invited to provide comments through several public comment opportunities and representatives were included in the Rule Advisory Committee Process. The fishing guides on the Siletz River were very active in submitting written comments and providing verbal comments at open comment periods following each on the RAC meeting and also at public comment periods at Marine Board meetings.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? YES

AMEND: 250-020-0231

RULE SUMMARY: The rule changes the use of boat motors on the Siletz River by allowing the use of small boat motors between Jack Morgan Park boat ramp and Old Mill Park boat ramp and prohibiting the use of motors upstream of Old Mill Park boat ramp and all tributaries above Jack Morgan Park boat ramp.

CHANGES TO RULE:

Boat Operations in Lincoln County ¶¶

(1) Alsea River:¶¶

(a) A person must not use a jet pump drive to propel a boat upstream of Hatchery Creek (RM 12).¶¶

(b) A person must not operate a motorboat in excess of a slow-no wake speed within 200 feet of a dock.¶¶

(2) Depoe Bay. A person must not operate a motorboat in excess of a slow-no wake speed east of the Highway 101 Bridge.¶¶

(3) Devils Lake and adjacent waters:¶¶

(a) A person must not operate a motorboat in excess of a slow-no wake speed on the water adjacent to the "D" River, known locally as Hostetters Canal.¶¶

(b) A person must not operate a motorboat in excess of a slow-no wake speed on that part of the "D" River which is west of an established marker on the south bank of the river near the outlet from Devils Lake.¶¶

(4) Olalla Lake: A person must not use an internal combustion engine to propel a boat.¶¶

(5) Salmon River: A person must not use a motor rated greater than 15 horsepower to propel a boat upstream of River Mile 2, as marked, which is approximately 3/4 mile west of the Highway 101 bridge.¶¶

(6) Siletz River: A¶¶

(a) No person must not use a jet pump drive to propel a boat shall use a motor in excess of 15 horsepower and in excess of slow-no wake speed to propel a boat between Jack Morgan Park boat ramp and Old Mill Park boat ramp.¶¶

(b) All motor use is prohibited upstream of Old Mill Park boat ramp.¶¶

(c) All motor use is prohibited on all Siletz River tributaries upstream of Jack Morgan's Park Boat Ramp.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 830.110, ORS 830.175

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 830.110, ORS 830.175, ORS 830.195