



**Oregon State Marine Board**  
Siletz River Rules Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 23, 2025  
Newport, Oregon

Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) Members: Chris Knutsen, Angela Sondenaa, Todd Logan, Nolan Davis, Jerome Freeman, Jay Yelas, Logan Ellis, and Mike Kosydar were present.

Staff: Alan Hanson, Environment and Policy Program Manager; Phil Hudspeth, Policy Coordinator; Janine Belleque, Facilities Program Manager; Jennifer Cooper, Executive Assistant

**Discussion - 0:00:13**

Alan Hanson thanked RAC members for participating in a survey. Mr. Hanson and the group discussed the survey questions. Mr. Hanson shared that the results will be shared with the Board.

0:19:04 - Angela Sondenaa shared that the questions were not necessarily reflective of the RAC concerns. Mr. Hanson asked the group if there are items that should be on the survey list. Jay Yelas shared that electric motors aren't really used on the river so that shouldn't be an item on the survey list. Ms. Sondenaa stated that the question of "number of fish create conflict" is not something the Marine Board can control so she wasn't sure why it was in the survey. Mr. Hanson shared that the questions in the survey are so the Board can understand the conflict.

0:26:25 - Chris Knutsen asked for clarification on the question of "fishing methods create conflict." Todd Logan shared that the question of fishing methods is broad. Mr. Hanson asked if there are any two methods of fishing, when done in the same area, that would create conflict. Mr. Logan shared an example of where it would create conflict. Mr. Hanson asked if it would be advantageous to say what the acceptable methods of fishing are on the river. Mr. Logan stated that it would exclude user groups. Mr. Knutsen shared that ODFW would generally not limit fishing methods unless there was illegal behavior happening.

0:36:11 - Mr. Hanson asked the RAC members to share what they love about the river. Nolan Davis shared that fishing and reconnecting with nature are the number one use for him and that the Siletz is one of the prettiest rivers. Mike Kosydar shared that he has lived on the Siletz for a long time and has fond memories of how it used to be and the Siletz has the potential to be a great river. Jerome Freeman shared that he enjoys the diverse scenery of the river and how it creates economic activity for the guides. Jay Yelas stated that it is the most beautiful place he has ever fished, it is the best salmon fishery on the Oregon coast, and he has the freedom to fish how he wants. Ms. Sondenaa shared that the Siletz has nourished her, is part of her cultural identity, and is a beautiful river. She stated that the best use of the river is the ecology it provides for the fish, wildlife and tribal culture. Mr. Logan shared that the Siletz has cultural significance for him and his family, he wants to protect it to ensure that future generations have the resources and that he enjoys the beauty of the river. Mr. Knutsen shared that he enjoys seeing the passion around the Siletz and the wide variety of outdoor recreation activities. Logan Ellis shared that he enjoys getting people out on the river, and that he can fish how he wants.

0:51:53 - Mr. Hanson shared the rulemaking timeline with the RAC members and that the goal is to have rules in place for the 2026/27 season. Ms. Sondenaa asked for clarification on the role of the RAC going forward. Mr. Hanson stated that RAC will meet again in January, after Tribal consultation has occurred, to look at potential rule language to be presented to the Board.

1:01:35 - Mr. Freeman asked about public meeting rules around Tribal consultation. Janine Belleque, Facilities Program Manager and Tribal Liaison, shared that the state of Oregon is

required to hold formal tribal consultation meetings with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes and the meetings are not public disclosure. Mr. Freeman also asked if there will be opportunities for other user groups to have meetings with Marine Board staff. Mr. Hanson shared that there may be an opportunity for a work session with different user groups and the Board. Mr. Yelas asked if the statement of need and financial impact on proposed rulemaking will be done for this rulemaking. Mr. Hanson shared that it will be done when the proposed draft rules are submitted to Secretary of State and that he will talk with various user groups regarding the financial impact prior to submitting it.

1:11:41 - Phil Hudspeth, Boating Policy Coordinator, asked the group if there are things that users of the Siletz River can do now to help avoid conflict, as potential new rules won't be in place until November 2026. Ms. Belleque explained that it would not be rules, but more of a stewardship or education. Mr. Kosydar shared that there already is a recommendation for people to use 15 hp or less. Mr. Freeman asked if they could inform boaters of areas of cultural significance and ask that they be more respectful during the next month and ask that motors voluntarily not be used in the winter under certain conditions. Mr. Hudspeth agreed that it is a good suggestion. Mr. Yelas suggested a sign that says all "users are welcome, please be courteous to other user groups." Mr. Davis stated that courtesy is sometimes forgotten when people get in a rush. Mr. Hanson shared the agency is trying to get a unified message that user groups can amplify within their own communities. Mr. Davis suggested messaging that if going by bank fisherman with a motor, shut it down and float by. Mr. Kosydar suggested going downstream only. Mr. Hanson asked if the agency puts together messaging and/or signs would the RAC members would be willing to share it. Members agreed.

1:34:30 - Mr. Hanson asked the members if they had anything additional to add before going to public comment. Mr. Kosydar shared that there are spawners currently in the river and he would like to protect the reds. Mr. Hanson noted that that was a good point to add to the messaging. Ms. Sondenaa thanked Mr. Kosydar for facilitating the video of spawning fish and allowing access to his property for filming.

### **Public Comment - 1:37:25**

John Sullivan stated that boats should travel down river only. He sees fishermen run up and down the river up to 15 times a day and the only way to have equality in fishing to remove the boat motors.

Scott Ammerman shared that the Siletz has the least conflict than other rivers he has fished. He started the Siletz Angler Association and has tried working with ODFW for more fish in the river and has done other advocacy for the river. Mr. Ammerman shared his thoughts on what could be included in a be courteous message for users.

Jack Glass shared that he is a fishing guide and lives on the Sandy river. He shared how the rules on the Sandy River have changed and allow specific areas for bank fishing, drift boats and power boats. He stated the user groups should work together to figure out where motors can go and thinks that water levels should be looked at as well.