



Oregon State Marine Board
Siletz River Rules Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2025
Newport, Oregon

Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) Members: Todd Logan, Chris Knutsen, Angela Sondenaa, 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

Introduction - 0:00:12

Alan Hanson introduced himself and Phil Hudspeth and shared a brief overview of the reason for the meeting. RAC members introduced themselves. Mr. Hanson discussed the goals of the RAC and the authority of the Oregon State Marine Board.

Questions - 00:08:05

Angela Sondenaa asked for clarification on how the RAC was formed. Mr. Hanson shared the reasoning behind the RAC members asked to participate. Nolan Davis asked about participation from other state agencies. Mr. Hanson shared that the petition was sent to the Marine Board regarding boating and provided further information on the reasoning behind the make up of the RAC members.

0:13:12 - Mike Kosydar asked if they could consider waters outside of Oregon to use as examples. Mr. Hanson stated that they can as well as look at other Oregon coastal rivers to see if the rules in place would work on the Siletz.

Discussion - 0:14:30

Mr. Hanson asked the RAC members to share information about the areas of the river that have importance to them.

0:16:00 - Mike Kosydar shared his concerns with sled boats and motor size on the river.

0:22:02 - Nolan Davis stated that he is a fishing guide and must use a motor on his drift boat to be competitive with other boats in the area. He shared his perspective that the conflict between motorized and non-motorized boats is the lack of space between boats and shared concerns with motors causing disturbance of spawning beds.

0:27:52 - Jerome Freeman asked for clarification on the time of the fall fishery on the Siletz. Mr. Kosydar stated that it depends on the rain, and it could be from September through December. Mr. Hanson asked if fishing is only during that three-month period. Mr. Kosydar stated that it is year-round. Summer is limited due to the amount of smolts released. Mr. Davis shared that it is Fall, Winter, Spring.

0:32:10 - Jay Yelas shared that for about a month and half, when the river is above 4 feet, people will use sled boats with props above Jack Morgan. He shared that he hasn't seen conflict between the recreational fishermen and that using a motor makes it more enjoyable. He shared that the carousel method works well to give everyone a chance.

0:35:27 - Todd Logan shared his perspective on the use of motors as inequitable. The use of technology and other motor bans in the area has increased pressure on the Siletz River. He stated that banning motors will not stop anyone from guiding the river, but the use of motors makes the river too crowded and is intimidating to those using a drift boat, which stops Siletz Tribal Youth from wanting to learn how to row.

0:40:07 - Angela Sondenaa stated that bank fishing is no longer possible for many people and that some tribal members won't fish the Siletz anymore due to how many boats are on the river. Fishing limits on other coastal rivers in the area have put more pressure on the Siletz and the social and cultural impacts of the limit is not considered by ODFW.

0:44:35 - Jay Yelas shared that the Siletz River has the best Fall Chinook run on the Oregon coast. He stated that motor use increased in the last 20 years, along with the fish numbers, and feels that the motor issue is a social issue and not a biology issue. Mike Kosydar added that the increase in the Coho numbers is due to a barrier on another creek being removed.

0:46:15 - Logan Ellis shared that the number of smolts released was less than 50,000 which is part of the problem in the Winter, and they are pushing ODFW to try to get that number increased.

0:47:30 - Angela Sondenaa shared that it is not about the fish, it is about the river user experience and respecting the resource.

0:47:57 - Todd Logan shared that most people drift down the river, very few people will tie up a section of the river anymore. He added that it comes down to a monetary issue on who will get an equitable share now and the conversation should be how to make it equitable for everyone.

0:49:10 - Jay Yelas stated that motors allow elderly and those with disabilities to access the river and shared that a friend was able to rescue other boaters who had capsized due to having a motor. Mr. Logan added that, as a person with a disability, he finds it disrespectful to use disability as a reason to champion the use of motors.

0:52:25 - Mr. Hanson asked the guides if banning motors would impact their business. Mr. Ellis shared that he thinks there is less conflict due to the motors, without motors people will anchor in one spot. Ms. Sondenaa added that if anchoring is a concern that could be addressed as well.

0:54:31 - Chris Knutsen shared that fisheries have evolved over time and the RAC should keep that in mind as they talk about fairness. Mr. Hanson asked the group what type of fishing they do. Members of the group responded with side drifting, bobber fishing, pulling plugs. Mr. Kosydar stated that when using oars one person per boat is impacted. Mr. Logan added that they need to be proactive in how to preserve the river for generations to come, both from cultural and sport aspect.

0:59:31 - Mr. Hanson asked if there are any boating safety issues. The group indicated that there are no real boating safety issues. Mr. Logan shared that it is congested there. Recreational paddlers only use the river in the summer. Mr. Freeman asked about the funding for the boating access in the area. Mr. Hanson described some of the Marine Board grant funding for facilities.

1:06:15 - Mr. Yelas asked if Chris Knutsen could share information about how the Siletz compares to other rivers on the coast with no motor use. Mr. Knutsen shared that the Siletz River is great for Fall Chinook and above a lot of the other rivers on the north coast. Mr. Knutsen also provided some information on how fish are counted.

1:15:54 - Mike Kosydar addressed the recent motor ban on the Rogue River. Mr. Hanson discussed the Rogue River rules that went into effect earlier in the year. Mr. Kosydar shared that

the Siletz is smaller and should have motor restrictions. Mr. Yelas shared that there is no issue or conflict in his opinion. Ms. Sondenaa stated that this is the 4th petition in recent years, which shows that there is conflict and people are driven off the river.

Public Comment - 1:23:43

Damon McGill stated that he had a shack on the river and described the conflicts with boats often going by fast.

Arnold Schaffer shared that he fishes in the winter and fall and that if Guides had to row they would not go seven days a week.

Jerry Kosydar stated that he is a landowner along the river and has seen a decline in fish, the motorized boats create a lot of noise, and they go by very fast and cannot slow down.

Grant Scheele shared that having a long-term motorized guide on the RAC would have been good, and that the higher water level is not safe for plug pullers and drifters. By removing motors, it would reduce fishing days and hurt livelihood.

Scott Amerman shared that he wished there were more motor users with history on the RAC. He has worked with local agencies to get funding from OSMB for access and petitioned ODFW for more fish and feels that the conflict comes from not enough fish.

Dylan Gorman shared that in past petitions the tribe has made comments or provided letters on the matter.

Another member of the public requested that the Marine Board share their position on whether all individuals should be able to get on the water, both Guides and recreational, with or without the need of additional tools.