



Oregon State Marine Board
Siletz River Rules Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 28, 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; Jennifer Cooper, Executive Assistant

Introduction - 0:00:04

Alan Hanson shared expectations of the group for the meeting and asked RAC members to share what sections of the river are used when and why. RAC members shared what their observations are on river usage.

Discussion - 0:15:24

Mr. Hanson asked the RAC members if there is conflict between motorized versus non-motorized boats in the river.

0:16:45 - Mike Kosydar shared that when boats put in at Ojalla Bridge and travel downstream there is no conflict, however when they go upstream there is a problem. Sometimes the river is too shallow, and the motors disrupt the spawning beds going upstream.

0:19:15 - Mr. Hanson shared a handout with the group on current rules for other coastal rivers and explained that he would like to see if they are applicable to the Siletz. Mr. Hanson started the discussion with a slow no wake rule. Todd Logan shared that a slow no wake rule would be an improvement. Angela Sondenaa shared that she doesn't feel that it would solve all the issues, such as boats going up and down the river and keeping other fishermen from having access.

0:25:49 - Jerome Freeman asked if they were talking about a no wake zone for the entire river. Mr. Hanson confirmed. Mr. Freeman shared that it's unrealistic and won't be enforced for the entire river and asked if there are other rivers that have slow no wake rules. Mr. Hanson shared a few examples.

0:28:14 - Chris Knutsen asked to clarify the scope of the RAC. Mr. Hanson shared that the petition was for Jack Morgan and above, and the Board voted to open rulemaking on the entire Siletz. Mr. Knutsen shared that in the tidewater sections of rivers there are generally no motor size restrictions but there are slow no wake rules.

0:29:33 - Mr. Hanson asked the RAC members if a slow no wake rule would be good or bad and what it would address. Mr. Freeman shared that it would limit access. Jay Yelas asked if there was already a slow no wake rule within 200 feet of a dock. Mr. Yelas also shared that the Siletz is not a fair comparison to other rivers with slow no wake rules due to its length. Mr. Kosydar shared that no one will enforce a slow no wake rule and that he would not be concerned with anything below Jack Morgan Park. Logan Ellis shared that drift boats going upstream don't throw a big wake, especially in high water. Mr. Hanson asked if there a section of the river where slow no wake makes sense. Mr. Kosydar shared that from Jack Morgan up it would reduce turbidity. Mr. Freeman stated that gets back to having no motor, but strong rowers will throw a wake as well.

0:34:49 - Mr. Hanson asked the group about an electric motor only rule. Mr. Ellis shared that electric motors are expensive so it would remove some user groups. Mr. Kosydar shared that electric motors are getting more powerful, so his idea would be to get rid of all motors from Moonshine to Jack Morgan. Mr. Logan stated that there is no benefit to electric motors only as it creates an inequitable share. Very few people can afford that level of gear. Mr. Yelas stated that you can catch more fish with a motor on your boat, gas motors work better against the current than an electric and the examples with electric motors are smaller rivers than the Siletz. Ms. Sondenaa stated that she does not think that it addresses the issue. Motors are the issue.

0:41:27 - Mr. Logan stated that the other rivers do not have the cultural significance that the Siletz has. Mr. Hanson shared that this is the first petition from a Tribe received by the Marine Board and that Tribal consultation will happen in addition to the public RAC meetings. Ms. Sondenaa shared that the public needs to hear what the concerns are of the Tribe. Mr. Logan shared that the river is unique.

0:44:53 - Mr. Hanson read the comment shared by Nolan Davis. Mr Davis shared that drift boats are designed to use oars and there are some electric motors that would push a drift boat upstream and create a wake.

0:45:51 - Mr. Knutsen asked if the Marine Board has always used the same definition for electric motor. Mr. Hanson stated that he believes the definition changed to electric motor at slow no wake speeds.

0:47:42 - Mr. Hanson asked the RAC to look at horsepower restrictions. Mr. Logan shared that it would address some of the issues. He also stated that he thinks everyone can agree that they are only talking about Jack Morgan up, not the entire river. The other RAC members agreed that nothing below Jack Morgan should be looked at.

0:52:06 - Mr. Hanson asked if a 15 hp limit from Jack Morgan Park to the headwaters would improve the river. Mr. Logan stated that it does not address the issues with equity in fishing. Mr. Ellis shared that most motors on the river are 8 hp or 9.9 hp and don't cause many issues with wake size. Mr. Logan and Ms. Sondenaa both agreed that it would not improve the river. Mr. Knutsen shared that when talking about potential natural resource impacts there could be a discussion around risk. Mr. Freeman shared that horsepower restriction is not his first choice. Mr Yelas stated he only sees the larger motors between Jack Morgan and Ojalla, and from there up its only 15 horsepower or less.

0:56:56 - Ms. Sondenaa asked if there is any data on motor size, number of boats, and number of users. Mr. Hanson stated that we are in the process of doing the boater survey, which is not a scientific survey but will collect some information.

0:58:11 - Mr. Yelas shared that the fishermen have already self-regulated to 15 hp or less above Ojalla Bridge. Mr. Hanson asked if it would make sense to say nothing over 15hp from Jack Morgan to Ojalla? Mr. Yelas clarified only from Ojalla up should be 15 hp and under. Mr. Freeman stated that he agreed with that. Mr. Logan and Ms. Sondenaa were not in agreement with limiting horsepower. Ms. Sondenaa shared that she has heard that motors are driving tribal members off the river and they are no longer able to fish the way they used to due to conflicts with motorized boaters. Mr. Kosydar stated the very minimum should be a 10 hp restriction.

1:05:07 - Mr. Hanson asked if a seasonal horsepower restriction would benefit the Siletz above Jack Morgan. Mr. Freeman shared that September 1 through March 31 is when most of the users above 15 hp are on the river.

1:06:22 - Mr Hanson asked if having a non-motorized section and another section 10 hp or less would work. Mr. Ellis stated that fishing is in high water in the winter and running without a motor is tough. With a motor they can fish more days. Mr. Logan shared that it would only address half the problem if no motors above Illahee. He shared that his first cultural fishing site is Euchre Creek off the Siletz, and motorized boating on the Siletz River impacts cultural fishing. Restrictions on other rivers have increased traffic on the Siletz River which compounds the inequitable share problem.

1:14:46 - Mr. Freeman asked to clarify the scope of the RAC. Mr. Hanson explained that the Marine Board regulates boating activities primarily for law enforcement, safety, and navigational hazards and has the authority to maintain traditional boating activity and minimize conflict. The purpose of the RAC is to see if there can be rule changes to minimize the conflict. Mr. Hanson also explained that if ODFW requests boating rule changes for the protection of fish and habitat those changes can be considered. Mr. Hanson stated that the more the RAC members share the more he can understand the issue before making a recommendation to the Board.

1:19:58 - Ms. Sondenaa shared that the petition was submitted due to the conflict on the river caused by motorized boat use. Conflicts are around fisheries, access, cultural rights, ecological concerns, and social issues. Regulating motorized boats is something that can be done to alleviate some of the conflict.

1:22:17 - Mr Yelas shared that nontribal members who use the Siletz love the river and thinks it is unfair if one user group tells another to use the river the way they want them to. Mr. Hanson shared information on the Board and rule review process. Mr. Yelas also shared that the issue has been in front of the Board multiple times in the past and they have not taken action.

1:26:54 - Mr. Kosydar stated that if they don't get rid of the motors on the river there will be newer boats going up the river as far as they want, as boat technology gets better the conflict will get worse.

1:29:15 - Mr. Hanson asked the RAC members if they had any other ideas beyond what was already discussed. Mr. Freeman shared the idea of having smaller sections of the river where no motors are used and then motors are able to be used in other sections. Mr. Davis commented that having no motors would not decrease river usage. There are nonmotorized boaters who no longer use the river due to motorized use. Having no motors on the river gives everyone the same opportunity. Mr. Hanson asked the group if they wanted to discuss Mr. Freeman's concept. Ms. Sondenaa shared that it would be hard to define where the areas would be because the entire river has cultural significance.

1:35:59 - Ms. Sondenaa asked for a process check on timelines for when the Board will review recommendations and rulemaking happens. Mr. Hanson explained the process and timelines for rulemaking.

Public Comment - 1:41:30

Max Hoover shared his experience with fishing from the bank and having motorized boats going back and forth in front of him.

Scott Amerman spoke about injuries and requirements for Guides. He also stated that a 15 hp limit past Ojalla would be beneficial.

Grant Scheele stated that fishing from a boat in front of a bank fisherman is rude behavior and should be addressed.

Bud Shoemake shared that he supports the Tribe's petition and would like to protect the fish in the river.

Bud Lane stated that he would like to see the motorized boats off the river. The river is sacred to the Siletz people, and he would like to protect the resource.

Buddy Lane has seen a decline in the runs in the river and shared some of the history of the Tribe with the river.