



**Oregon State Marine Board**  
Siletz River Rules Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2025  
Newport, Oregon

Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) Members: 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 - 0:00:00**

Alan Hanson shared that biologists with the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians would provide a presentation regarding science and fish during the meeting. Jay Yelas asked for clarification on who may speak at RAC meetings. Mr. Hanson shared that he had invited the Tribe to share the science they had, and he would entertain having another presenter at a future meeting.

**Discussion - 0:05:18**

Stan van de Wetering and Dylan Gorman with Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians shared a presentation on the topic of motorboat use and impacts on fish. (Presentation attached for reference)

0:20:00 - Mr. Hanson asked if the pressure from a boat or the propulsion from a jet motor has the most impact. Mr. van de Wetering and Mr. Gorman discussed in more depth the pressure measurements of a boat moving through the water. Jerome Freeman asked how deep the water was for the study. They responded with 6"-24" inches of water.

0:24:39 - Mr. Hanson asked to clarify the important factor: size and speed of the vessel or the propulsion type. Mr. van de Wetering explained that an experiment that was done to replicate pressure. The experiment showed that increased pressure had an increased mortality rate of the Salmon eggs. He also explained that the study is related to the downward pressure of the boat as it passes through the water.

0:26:34 - Chris Knutsen briefly shared his thoughts on the study being shared in the presentation. Mike Kosydar asked if an electric motor would have the same impact. Mr. van de Wetering shared that he thought a similar size vessel going the same speed would have a similar result, excluding the use of a prop. Mr. Yelas stated that a lab setting with no pressure from a moving current is not the same as the river with active pressure from water flow. Mr. Gorman discussed that in a river the eggs would go somewhere but, in a tank/lab setting they have nowhere to go when the pressure is exerted.

0:32:29 - Mr. van de Wetering and Mr. Gorman described their experiment with a boat in the Siletz River. They shared video clips of the boat in the river and shared their observations (links to videos in presentation materials attached).

0:46:47 - Mr. Hanson asked for clarification of water flow and fish life stages in the river during the high fishing pressure months. Nolan Davis responded that the CFS is anywhere from 400 to 3400 in the winter. Angela Sondenaa shared that this is a record low year, and normal water levels keep shifting. Mr. Hanson asked the group if they would consider a motor ban at certain CFS levels. Ms. Sondenaa responded that it could be considered, but that the disturbance to the fish has not been

discussed. Mr. van de Wetering provided his observations on the RAC previous discussions as a high-level recap on the conflict. Mr. Hanson agreed with his observation. He again asked to clarify the fish life stages in the river. Mr. van de Wetering shared that in the fall Summer Steelhead and Springers start spawning, Lamprey will spawn into late July and August. He also shared that egg development is related to temperature days, and hatching will begin in late February or early March and can go all the way into late April.

0:59:00 - Mr. Knutsen stated that he likes to look at how much risk you are willing to consume. He shared that the pressure rating issue can have an impact on eggs in the gravel if they come in contact with the pressure waves, which can vary by depth. He stated that eggs must survive several months through varying degrees of river flow, including floods, and Salmon may choose to spawn in certain areas depending on water levels. He shared that boats can create sedimentation which can disrupt water flow and can create oxygen issues, and that varies depending on factors such as conditions, location, boat type and motor type. High stress can impact spawning success and egg survival, and Salmon will avoid high use areas. Different levels of risk must be balanced with the things people like to have.

1:07:06 - Mr. Freeman asked if there is data on spawning counts in the Siletz River for the last 20 years and also if there has been a consistent decline in fish population while there has been an increased amount of motor use on the river. Mr. Knutsen stated it would be hard to look at population estimates and correlate that to a value of motor use. He stated that there may be some level of motor use or horsepower multiplied by number of boats that could cause measurable effects, but there is no way to measure that, so you have to look at it in the context of risk. Mr. van de Wetering agreed with Mr. Knutsen's statements regarding risk. Mr. Freeman stated that he looks at risk associated with a drop in numbers, and if they do not see diminished returns the risk isn't there. Mr. Yelas stated that the current risk that is assumed in the management practices is spot on, as the Siletz has one of the best Salmon returns of the coastal rivers. Mr. Davis shared that if some of the risk was eliminated the Siletz would be even better. Ms. Sondenaa shared that there is not enough fish, and if there is one thing that can be done to make it better, they need to do it. Conditions are going to continue to decline, and they need to get ahead of it and mitigate some of the factors.

### **Public Comment - 1:15:51**

Jerry Kosydar shared information regarding the diminishing numbers of fish in surveys he sees.

Max Hoover shared that there is more fishing pressure on the Siletz and jets boats going up river turn up debris. He would like no motors on the river.

Jordan Hoover stated that we need to start preserving fish and habitat.

Scott Ammerman shared that if motors are banned there will be more anchors, which can do damage. He stated that numbers are being regulated on the Siletz and 80% of the fish are being harvested in the ocean.

Jay Yelas shared that by removing motors some populations of users would not be able to launch on the slide at Ojalla. Without motors it would make it so those users could not fish the 11-mile section from Old Mill to Morgan.