

Oregon State Marine Board

Willamette River Boating Regulation History

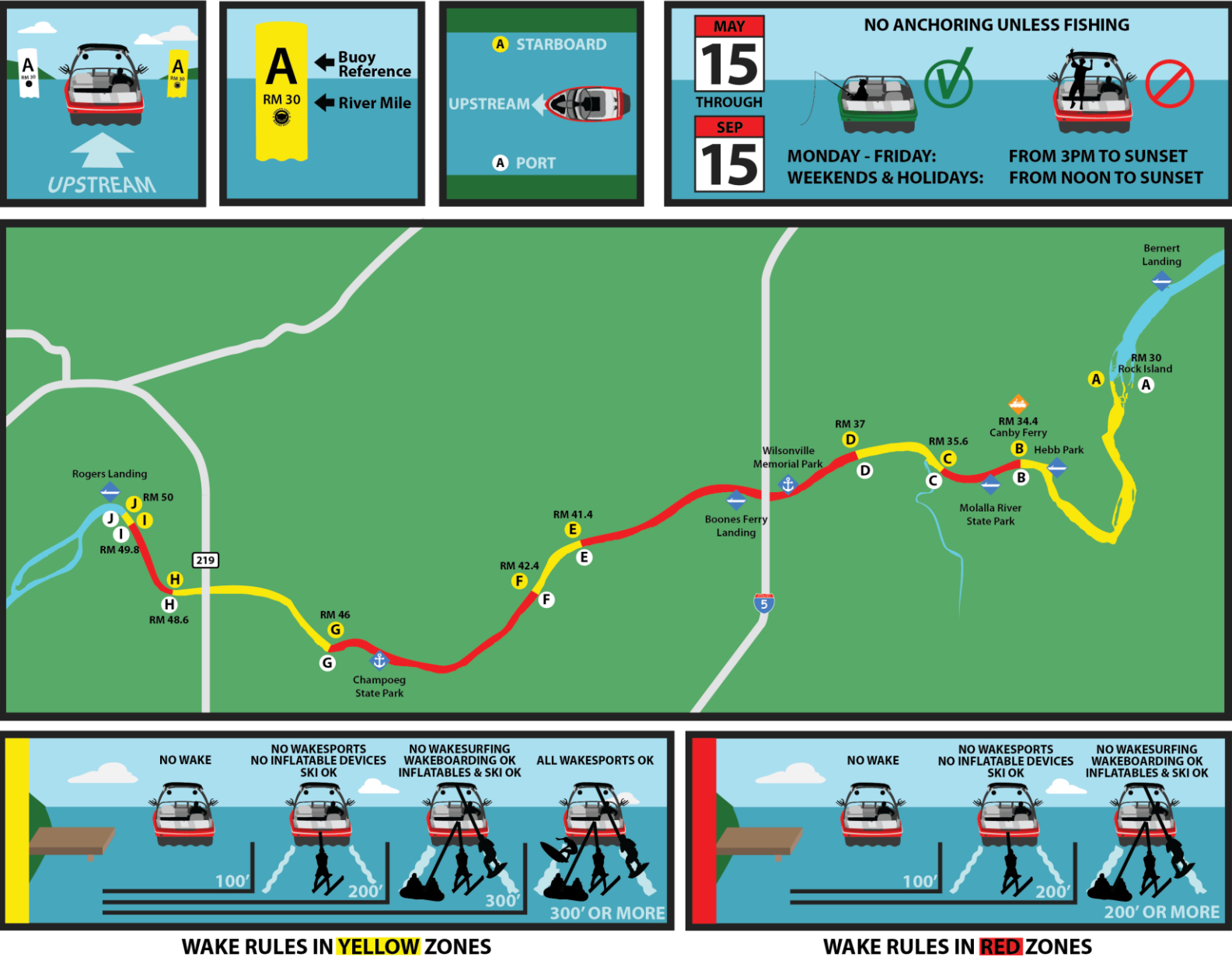
Testimony Provided for HB 2555 and HB 2725 of the 2021 Legislative
Session



Regulatory Overview for the Newberg Pool (RM 30-50)

- 2010-2018: Wake-enhancing device restriction in place.
- 2018: Legislative interest increases; several bills introduced; Legislative workgroup formed; the Marine Board opens rulemaking.
- January, 2019: OSMB adopts regulations that restrict surfing to ~10 river miles, puts other restrictions on all towed watersports.

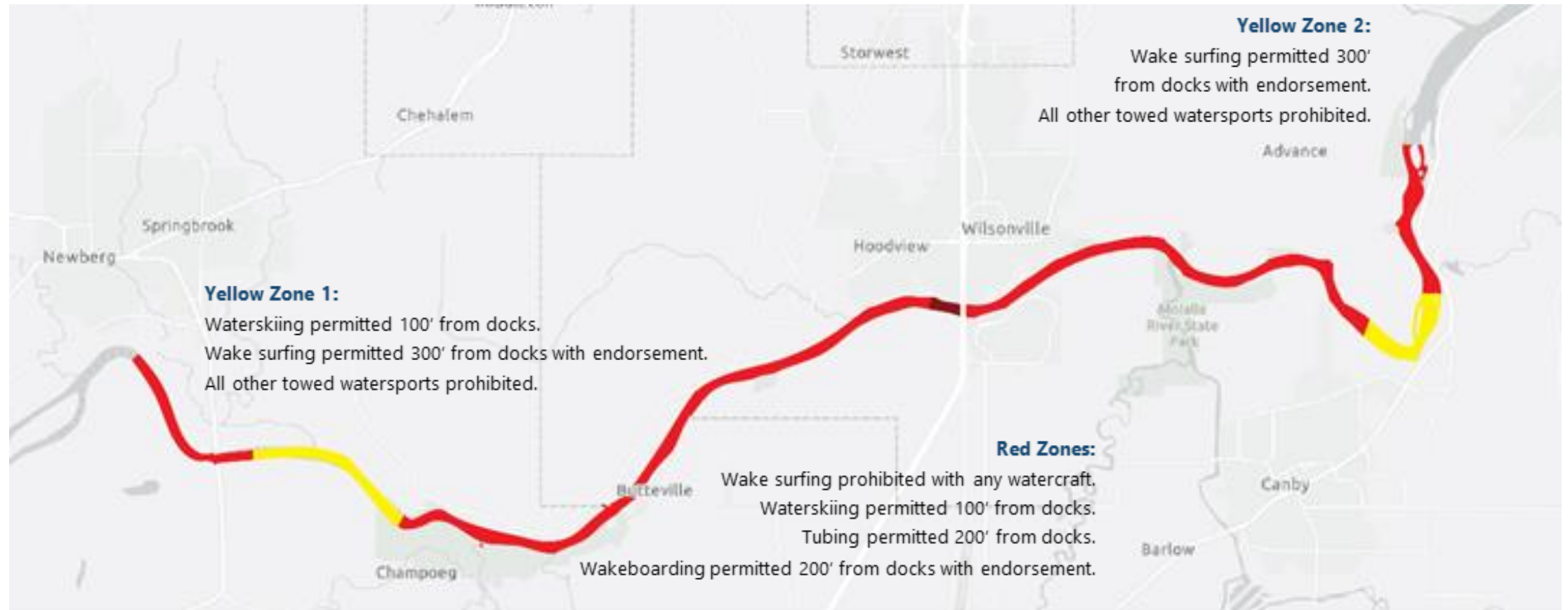
Newberg Pool Regulations for 2019 boating season



Regulatory Overview for the Newberg Pool (RM 30-50)

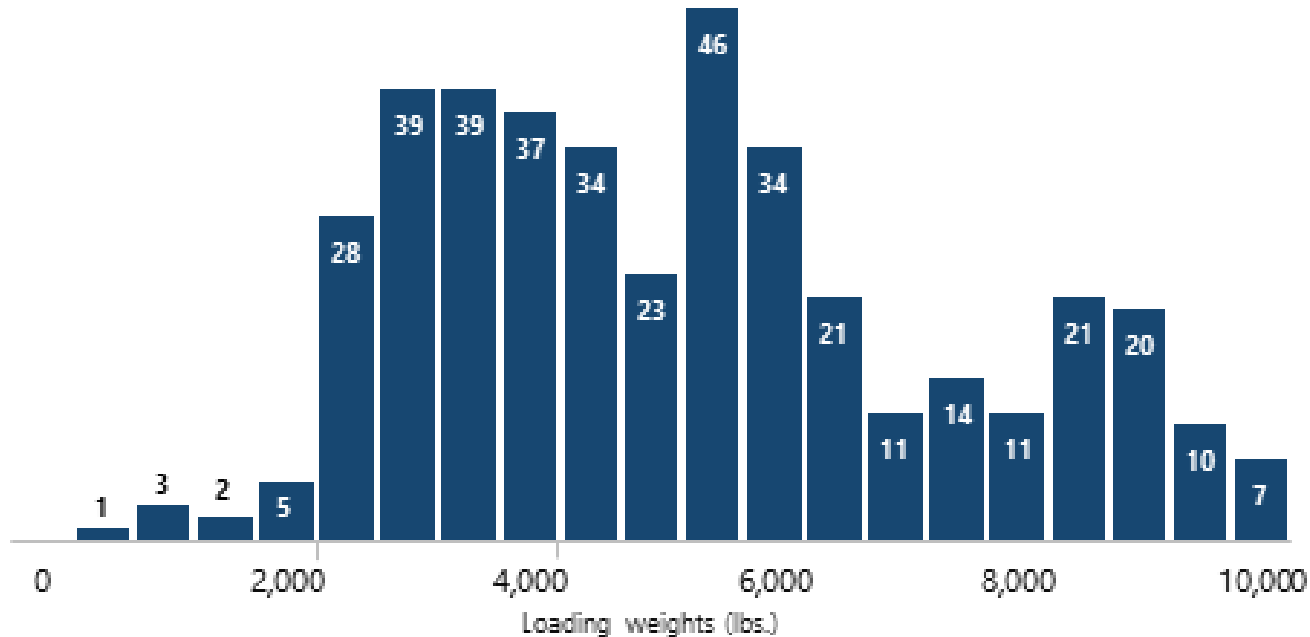
- July, 2019: Legislature passes HB 2352 (Towed watersports education) and HB 2351 (Consideration of State Land Use Goal 15).
- October, 2019: OSMB takes several actions to implement legislation
 - Opens rulemaking for the Newberg Pool to further restrict wakesports.
 - Approves rules to implement Towed Watersports Education Program.
 - Establishes 10,000 lb weight limit for wakesports per HB 2352. Ties to the decision to further limit where wakesports can occur.
 - Opens rulemaking for the Lower Willamette River below the Falls to address similar issues.
- May, 2020: OSMB adopts modified regulatory framework based on input from stakeholders, advisory committee, agency partners. Surfing is restricted to ~3 river miles.

Newberg Pool Regulations (July 1, 2020 to Present)



Towed Watersports Education Program

Distribution of Boat Loading Weights



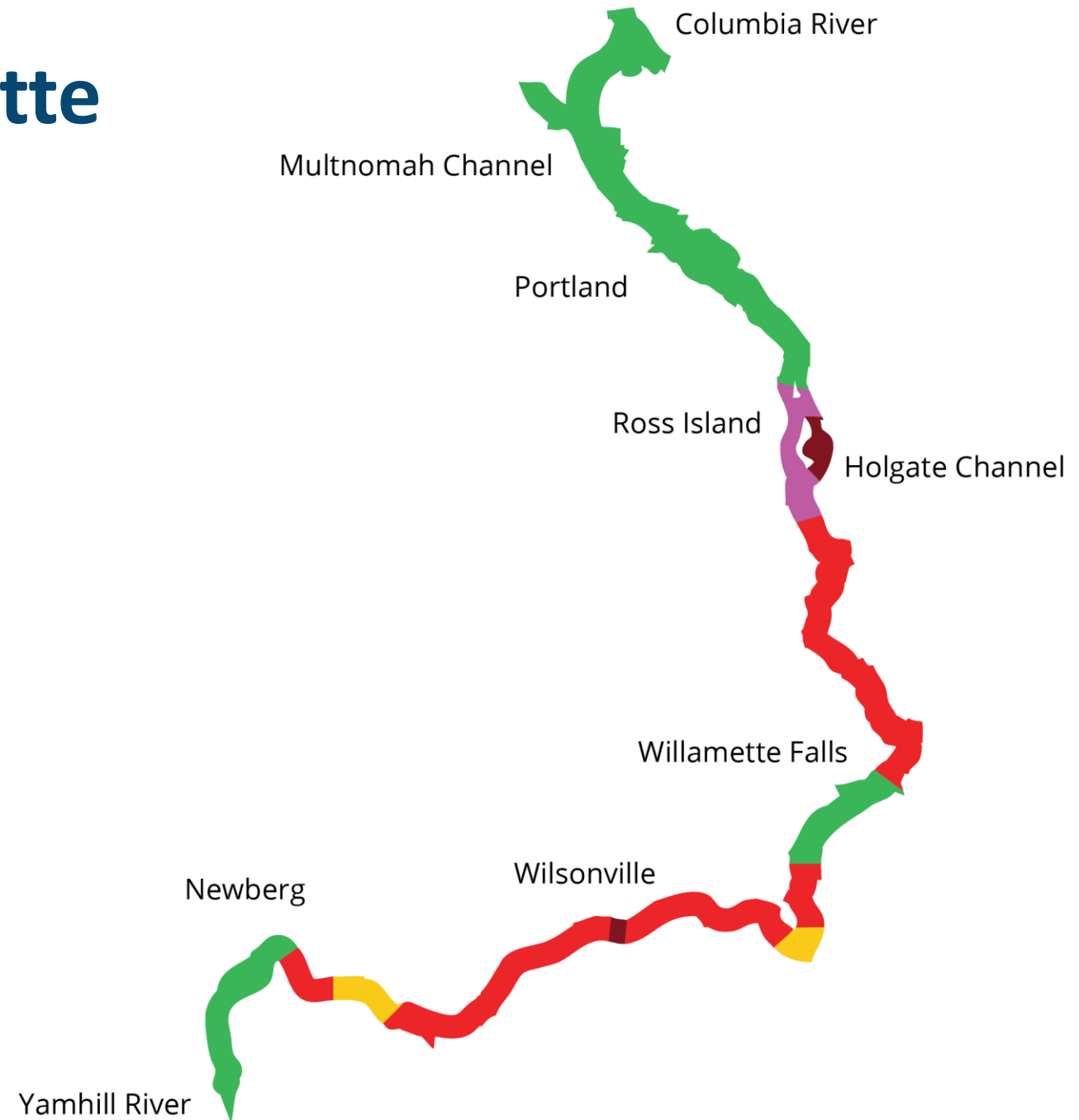
- **631** Towed Watersports Education Endorsement holders
- **406** boats with Towed Watersports Motorboat Certificate
- Average loading weight of boats is **5,079 lbs.**

Regulatory Overview for the Lower Willamette River (RM 26.5 - 0)

- October, 2019: The Marine Board opens rulemaking for the Lower Willamette River in response to legislation and stakeholder concerns.
- November, 2019 to January, 2021: The Marine Board receives and considers input from an advisory committee, stakeholder groups, state and federal agencies, and lawmakers.
- January, 2021: OSMB adopts a comprehensive set of regulations that prohibits wake surfing in much of the Lower Willamette and restricts all towed watersports in the heavily used area near Ross Island.

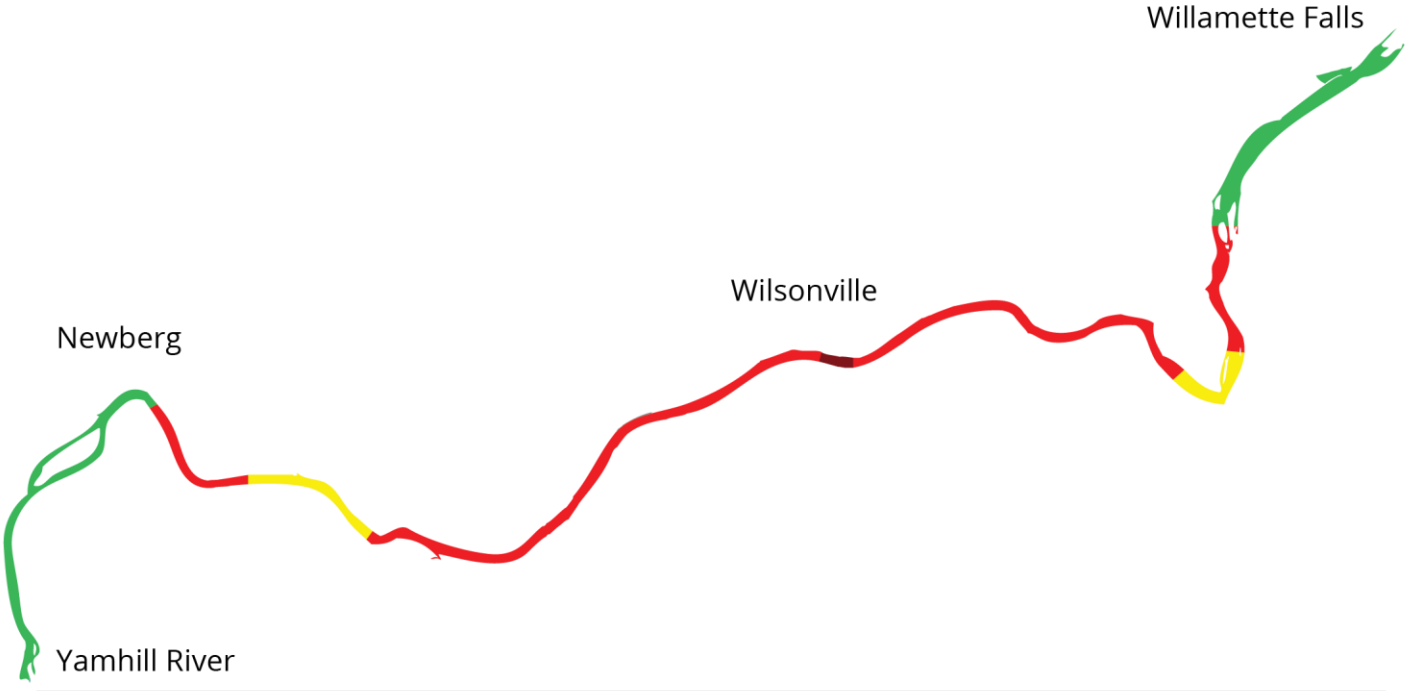
Current Lower Willamette River Regulations (as of May 1, 2021)

- Slow-no wake, no towed watersports
- Pass through zone, no towed watersports
- Wakesurfing prohibited, rules for all towed watersports
- Wakesurfing permitted, rules for all towed watersports
- No special towed watersports rules



Current Regulations

- Slow-no wake, no towed watersports
- Wake surfing prohibited. Wakeboarding allowed with Endorsement and boats <10,000 lbs. Other towed watersports allowed.
- Wake surfing allowed with Endorsement and boats <10,000 lbs. Other towed watersports prohibited.*
- No special towed watersports rules



Regulations in HB 2725/HB 2555 as amended

- Slow-no wake, no towed watersports
- Wakesurfing prohibited. Other towed watersports allowed with Endorsement and boats <4,000 lbs.

