

Weighted stern ski boats are not only destructive to habitat, they are narcissistic, rude and loud. The operators of these craft turn any section of river they occupy into a washing machine uncomfortable for powered runabouts, impossible to fish, and dangerous to paddle. I have been a licensed guide on the Willamette River for almost 20 years and I frequently find large areas of the river inaccessible for local paddle trips thanks to these obnoxious water craft. Why should thousands of us, forced to buy permits through the Marine Board, be denied safe access to the river to appease just a view weighted stern craft?

It is time the Oregon Marine Board stand up for the thousands of us who operate small craft in a respectful manner. People who dutifully pay for our permits, only to be driven from large stretches of river that we are paying for access to use! Our rivers and lakes should not be a drag strip for the irresponsible.

We want our waterways to be accessible to everyone. We want the Marine Board to stop being a rubber stamp committee for irresponsible boat operators.