Dear OSMB;

As an avid touring kayaker, I've noticed that I have slowly moved away from using some areas of the lower Willamette River in the past years during the height of summer usage. However, as I also volunteer to act as a safety boarder for several summer events, I do, occasionally, get on the water in some of the busier areas. What I have seen is that of all the mixed craft usage of the river, the increased usage of wake boaters appears out of context with the other usages. I have had to assist in rescues of kayakers, and standup paddle boarders swapped by the usual wakes this craft generates. The Willamette is just too narrow of a river to accommodate the impact of these boats. The wakes do not dissipate before hitting the shore and in rocky areas generate reflection waves that help create more oceanic chop conditions that take away the pleasure of many other river users.

I've peacefully shared the river with Ski Doo jet skis, fast traveling water skiers, fishermen, and power pleasure craft including the commercial jet boaters, and the Portland Spirit. While the differences in these diverse usages are great, there has been over the years a reasonably polite sharing spirit. I've had many power boaters slow as they pass in narrow sections, and exchange our "Good day's". For some reason, a subsection of the wake boater group, seem oblivious to other users of the river, not even thinking to turn down the volume of their traveling rock concerts. I have concluded, that this type of craft has just too big of a negative impact for the size of the Willamette on people, boaters, swimmers, fisherman, and riverside homeowners and their water structures. This craft seem to have an overly negative impact on the shore line erosion, water turbidity, and impact to the juvenile nurseries of protected species. The bottom ground is that the Willamette river is just to narrow to accommodate this particular choice of recreation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard Becker,

Past President of the Oregon Ocean Paddling Society