

I ski on the Portland Water Spectacular team. We are the only show water ski team in the Pacific NW. Our dock is located between Bernert Landing and the waterfalls in West Linn. From what I can tell on the map, this is about Milepost 28. Our dock has been there over 25 years and the past few years have watched the shoreline erode more rapidly since wake enhanced boats have become more popular. We've had to readjust our dock tie lines because of the erosion and replace or adjust flotation every year because the waves hit our dock so hard. Very few boats obey the 200 feet from our dock rule because the dock is the only one out there in that stretch of river and they miss seeing it before it is too late. . With the rules that went in 2 years ago, the wake boats flock to this stretch of river because the other direction (milepost 30) has limited areas that their boats can be used. This year with many boat ramps being closed due to COVID, there was an abundance of wake enhanced boats in our 1 mile stretch of river and it was impossible for us to ski safely. We do pyramids 3 levels high and having big wakes is very dangerous for us. While COVID limited pyramids last year, there is no way we could have practiced any pyramids in that stretch of water. Consistently we were seeing waves that were 2 to 4 feet tall. On a stretch of river that is typically relatively calm unless there is high wind. While I may agree that there is no proof that one wake boat alone damages the shoreline, having large groups of boats (I counted over 30 one time this year in this one mile stretch), compounds the issue. The erosion is not happening from one boat. It is happening because all the boats are in the same area.

We have kids ages 8+ skiing and they are at big risk of injury with the big wakes. Last summer, we had huge waves that came over the front of our bow almost flooding our boat. This could potentially sink us as we saw happen with the various boat rallies here and all over the country. Adjusting the "Newberg Pool" to include our stretch of river will instantly make this area of water safer to ski, and slow the erosion of the shoreline. If you don't expand to include our milepost, we risk a similar scenario that we had last year of all the wake surf boats congregating to this stretch of river making it very unsafe for boaters of all time, including the wake boats themselves. These type of water craft are not designed to navigate in waves over 4 feet high that we experienced this summer. It prevents others who are water skiing or kayaking from enjoying a very beautiful stretch of river, and again, erodes the shoreline.

Personally, while I'm not opposed to the sport of wake surfing, it looks fun and I hope to try it some day. But I think these boats need to be limited to only large bodies of water like lakes where the waves have time to dissipate before they hit shore, and where there is wide open space for these waves not to affect others enjoyment of the water. We have an abundance of lakes in this state. There are areas to go and enjoy wake surfing. The problem is once you started to limit it, you now created a worse issue where all the boats are congregating in a small area. The only way to fix it now is to limit it for the entire stretch, not just leaving a few miles of river out. Otherwise this is the 2 miles of river everyone with a 4,000 boat will be boating at. And there are hundreds if not thousands of these boats in the Portland Metro area that you are now forcing into a 2 mile stretch of river by omitting milepost 26.6-30. Including milepost 26.6-30 is the safest decision. Thank you for your time.