

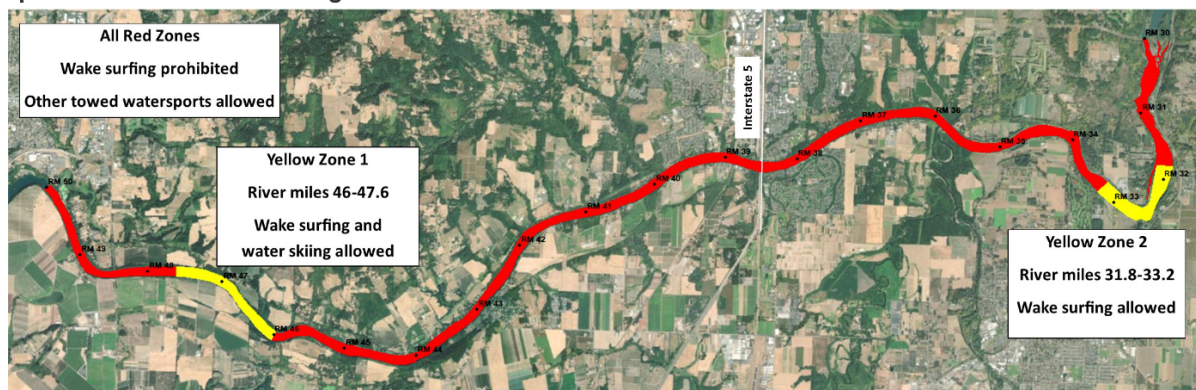
Chair Warner, Vice Chair Drazan, Vice Chair Holvey and distinguished members of the committee. Your time is valuable and I want to respect it so I will try and be brief.

There is a lot of emotion on this bill from both sides but please don't let that persuade you to rush to enact potentially unnecessarily legislation. I have lived on the river for over 20 years and I can give you my opinion of what I see just as someone else who has lived here just as long can give you their opinion which may be completely opposite. Simply put they are opinions not facts.

Decisions such as these should be based on facts and not hearsay, emotions, rumors, speculation or opinions. Legislation like this should be based on unbiased scientific study of the Newberg pool itself. Everyone knows you can find an "expert" to testify on your position either for or against. I am sure you see it every day.

There is no hurry. The fact is the OSMB has enacted strict rules on where certain activities such as wake surfing and wake boarding can be done and by what size of boat in the Newberg pool. Their program is extensive and includes education, testing, licensing, fees and heavy financial penalties if violated. Wake surfing has not been allowed on the majority of the river for the last two years. Two very small designated areas exist where no docks are present so all of the testimony about surf waves causing homeowner property damage is not representative of what is taking place today. Two years ago, this could be the case but with the new rules and enforcement, it simply is not occurring.

Special Rules for the Newberg Pool



Regarding claims of impacts to the environment, why is the Division of State Lands (DSL) not involved in this process? They have the jurisdiction and the expertise to study, evaluate and make recommendations on the ecological effects wakes have, if any on Oregon's waterways.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have already made it clear the claims of destruction of NW Salmon by wake boats in their opinion is not true. If we can't trust ODFW who can we trust?

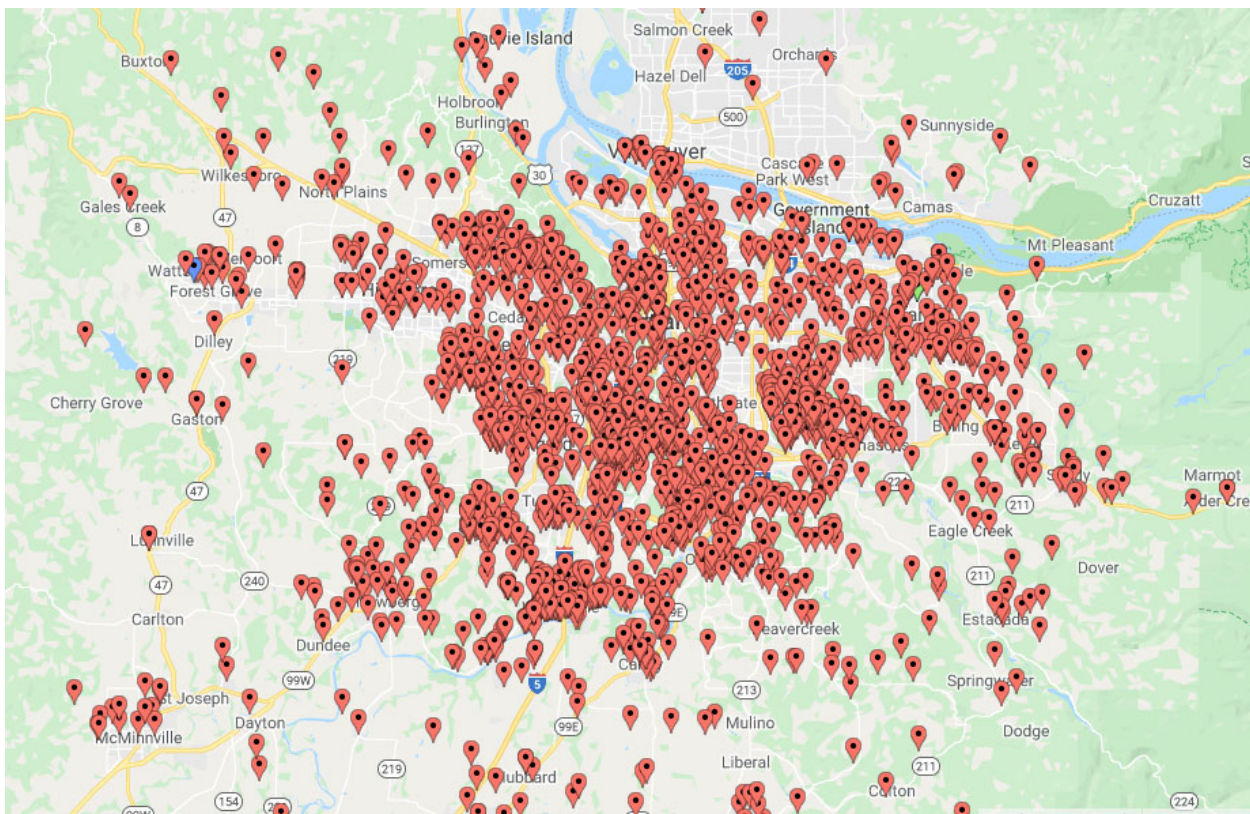
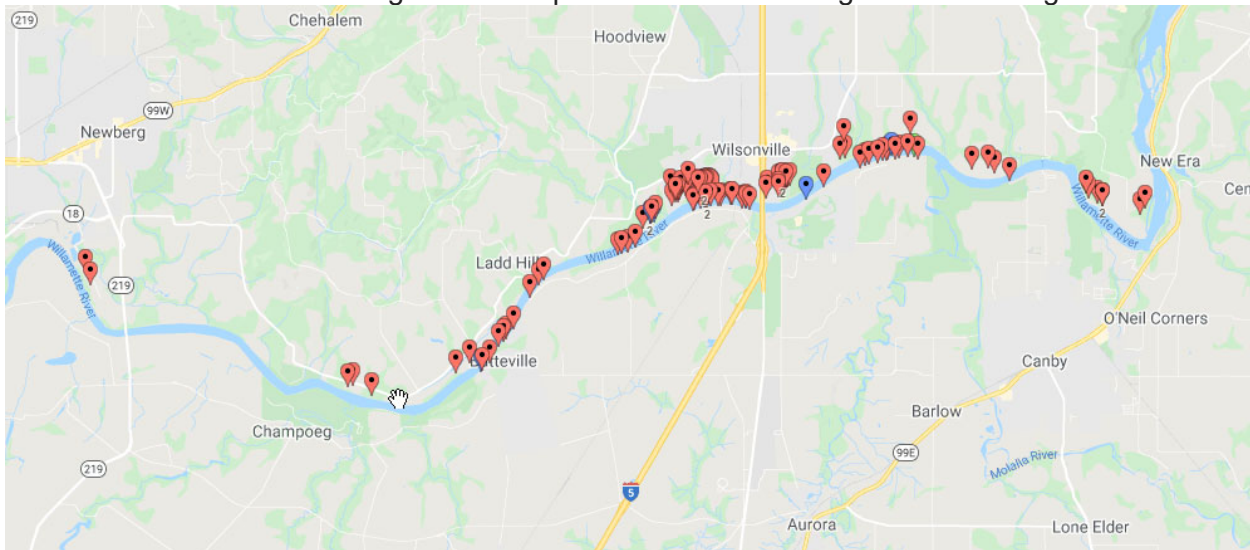
When asked the question by Pamplin Media– To the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Deputy Fish Chief Bruce McIntosh, do wake sports really impact salmon and steelhead populations, and, if so, to what degree? "Our perspective is they have little to no effect," McIntosh said the main detriment to such populations are blockages to historical above federal dams.

McIntosh said that in the department's experience and observations, wake boats do not significantly impact salmon and steelhead.

The ODFW Deputy Fish Chief said that during the peak time when wake sports activities are most popular, the summer months, those species already have completed migration and are more likely to be located in the portion of the Willamette River near the McKenzie and the Santiam tributaries, where the water is cooler and is less amenable to wake sports.

"It's (the Newberg Pool) not a place they spend a lot of time making a living (during the summer). (We) look at that and say the impacts are low," McIntosh said.

These are the families this Legislation will prohibit from recreating in the Newberg Pool



My family and I respectfully ask you to not move SB 857 forward. Let's focus our time and resources to identify true issues and work collaterally on appropriate solutions.

Thank you for your time,
Rick Schulte
Wilsonville Or