

Submitter: B Fossil
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure: SB1590

I am an avid boater, water skier, wakeboarder and wake surfer. I oppose overturning the current regulations. Even knowing I can't use my own ballast tank and wake plate, I don't think bringing larger sized wakes back into the pool is a good idea. Boats throwing off 4' rollers in narrower parts of the Willamette R. is simply not safe for other boats/watercraft, swimmers or homes/docks lining the river. The science might show the dissipation of a wake from 200' out (I'd like to see the study on this . . . What speed was the boat traveling? Was there just one boat? What kind of boat was it? etc.) but what happens when you have multiple boats at a time producing roller after roller? What about the impact to the other boat/rider that just passed you going the other way at 100' of distance? What happens when a boat has to shift right or can't stay in the middle of the river to give more room to another boat (or two) traveling in the opposite direction or a fellow rider just crashed and are now in the way? Or what happens when two opposing 4' rollers clash into each other in the middle of the river or double up on another boat or river bank or dock? I've watched smaller boats and watercraft, docks and riverbanks get hammered by these waves. Hammered.

I know there is a big argument about the riverbanks, frankly I'm more worried about the other boats on the water. In my opinion, excessively large wakes are not ideal for narrower parts of any river or lake that doesn't have the navigational options when squeezed between riverbank and other watercraft.

I'm neutral on the weight restriction as long as a boat isn't using technology to recreate the tidal energy of the ocean.