

SENATE BILL 1589 FACTS

Here's how the unsubstantiated weight limits proposed in the Newberg Pool would force the majority of families off the river, negatively impacting our community.

TODAY

10,000-pound boat weight limit for **wakeboarding** and **wake surfing**.

Towed Watersports Education Card and fees required for **wake surfing** and **wakeboarding**.

Wake surfing limited to two small zones, where no docks or homes are present.

Newberg Pool boundaries defined as a **20-mile section from river** between **Roger's Landing and Bernert Landing**.

IF SB 1589 PASSES

▶ **5,000-pound** boat weight limit for **ALL towed water sports including tubing, water skiing and wakeboarding**.

▶ **Towed Watersports Education Card** and fees required for **ALL towed water sports**.

▶ **Wake surfing completely banned**.

▶ Newberg Pool **extended 8 miles** that are largely uninhabited and wide enough for wake dissipation. All above rules now apply. Boundary would extend from **Willamette Falls** to the **mouth of the Yamhill River**.

KEY FACTS



SB 1589 will strip safe, socially distant outdoor opportunities for hundreds of families along the Willamette and impact local small businesses who depend on their support.



There is no empirical evidence or peer-reviewed study that links the proposed restrictions to having any positive effect on fish populations.

Wake sports largely take place in the summer, outside of key migratory or spawning months. Studies show that wake boats waves, when operated at least 200 feet from shore, do not carry enough energy to have a significant impact on most shorelines.



The Newberg Pool is already one of the most regulated bodies of water in Oregon. Wake surfers are already subject to a weight limit, required to obtain a special safety certification and only allowed in two small zones with no adjacent homes or docks.



Residential development, not boat wakes, is the primary human-caused source of erosion. There is broad agreement that the lack of native vegetation and homeowner mismanagement of native trees has caused the majority of erosion. Furthermore, natural occurrences such as last winter's storm have a greater impact on river health than boating.



This bill not only exacerbates safety issues, but **it also fails to solve a primary issue - enforcement.** The state has already struggled to enforce the extensive laws and rules we have, and the bill does not address how to deal with the **worst offenders who make the river dangerous for everybody.**



Subjecting only towed water sports enthusiasts to a weight limit is overtly biased. A 5,000-pound fishing boat can produce a similar wake to the same size tow boat. Furthermore a 15,000 cabin cruiser that produces a wake far greater than any wake surfing boat can still operate freely under this legislation.

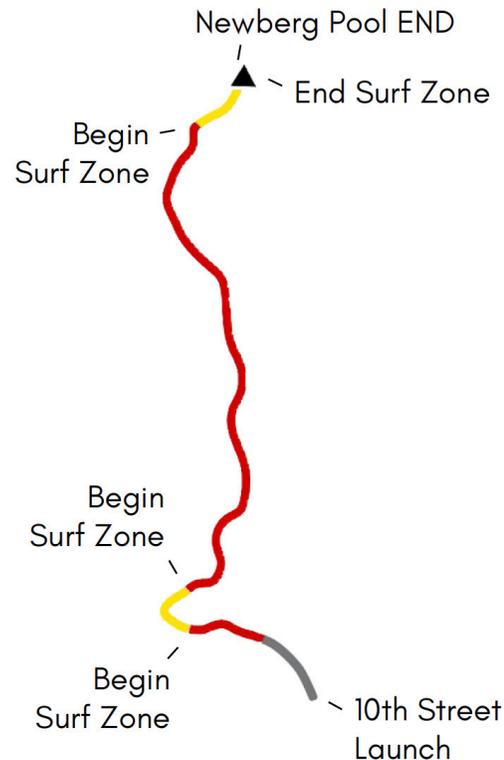
TOWED WATER SPORTS IN THE NEWBERG POOL

The Newberg Pool is arguably the most highly regulated body of water in Oregon. **Wake surfers are limited to a 3-mile, mostly uninhabited stretch of the river.** They are also subject all Oregon boating laws and an additional Newberg Pool specific safety certification, fee and weight limit.

Where is the Newberg Pool?

The Newberg Pool is a 20-mile section of the **Willamette River from river mile 30-50**, roughly between Roger's Landing in Newberg and Bernert Landing in West Linn.

Where are towed water sports allowed?



Yellow Zone 1: wake surfing allowed for 1.6 miles

Yellow Zone 2: wake surfing allowed for 1.4 miles

Red Zones: wake surfing prohibited; all other towed watersports allowed

15% of the Newberg Pool is available for wake surfing

Why is wake surfing only permitted in the yellow zones?



No home or docks



Wide enough for wake dissipation



Watch this Newberg Pool Virtual Tour on the Willamette River to learn more.

BOATING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Oregon State Boating Regulations

-  Pass the Oregon Boater equivalency exam
-  Obtain an Oregon Boater Education Card (\$20 fee)
-  Register boat and display registration decal (\$5 plus \$5.95 per foot)
-  Have a USCG approved life jacket for each person on board
-  Avoid power turns, sudden slow-downs and repetitive passes
-  No boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs
-  Carry and use a skier-down flag
-  Have a working horn or whistle
-  Keep music at reasonable levels

Oregon State Proximity Regulations

-  No operation of a personal watercraft within 200 feet behind a water skier, wakeboard, tube or similar towed device
-  Slow to 10 MPH within 100 feet of another motorized boat or sailboat underway
-  Slow-No Wake within 100 feet of anchored vessels or non-motorized craft
-  Slow-No Wake within 200 feet of a swimmer
-  Slow-No Wake within 200 feet of a boat ramp, marina, or floating home
-  Wake surf 300 feet from dock structures and beaches
-  Wakeboard and tube 200 feet from dock structures
-  Water ski 100 feet from dock structures

BOATING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Additional Newberg Pool Rules

- 1 **Pass** the OSMB Towed Watersports Education equivalency exam
- 2 **Obtain** and carry a Towed Watersports Education Card (\$60 fee every two years)
- 3 **Register** boat and display a Towed Watersports Boat decal
- 4 **Boat maximum** loading weight (dry weight plus factory ballast capacity) must be less than 10,000 lbs

Snapshot of the Towed Watersports Education Program for the Newberg Pool

As of February 23, 2021, 631 applicants successfully passed their exam and received their Towed Watersports Education Endorsement. Additionally, 406 boats have been certified to

receive their Towed Watersports Motorboat Certificate. The average loading weight (combined dry weight and factory ballast capacity) of each of these boats is 5,079 lbs.

Distribution of boat loading weights

