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April 28, 2020

Josh Mulhollem, Environmental and Policy Program Manager
and Oregon State Marine Board
435 Commercial St. NE., Ste 400
Salem, OR 97301

sent via email

Mr. Mulhollem,

We appreciate your having participated in the City of Portland's Planning and Sustainability Commission's recent work session on the South Reach planning project. Since that work session it has come to our attention that the Oregon State Marine Board is involved in a rule making process for the Lower Willamette River regarding wakes. We have reviewed the range of alternatives presented in *Regulatory Concepts for April 15, 2020 Meeting of the Oregon State Marine Board*. At our April 28, 2020 meeting, we determined that this is a significant issue regarding human health and safety and sustainability of the riverine ecosystem on the Lower Willamette River.

We have also reviewed the National Marine Fisheries Service's January 16, 2020 letter to the Marine Board outlining their concern regarding wake impacts on salmonids. They state that "Noise and wave actions are frequently a threat to juvenile salmon and steelhead. Therefore, we expect that wake sports are likely to have a significant adverse impact on those listed species and their critical habitats." We have also consulted with several city bureaus including the Bureau of Environmental Services which has information that further highlights the risks to salmonids and to fish and wildlife habitat.

Therefore, for boating and swimming safety and for ecological health of the Lower Willamette River the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission urges the Oregon State Marine Board to adopt the following new regulation within the City of Portland:



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1900 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 7100, Portland, OR 97201 | phone: 503-823-7700 | fax: 503-823-7800 | tty: 503-823-6868

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Recommendation:

Establish a Slow, No Wake Zone (SNW) on the Willamette River, including Holgate Channel, from the Hawthorne Bridge to the Sellwood Bridge, Portland, OR.

This recommendation is an expansion of Concept A.1 in the Regulatory Concepts document. The SNW zone should be applied year around, not seasonally. We believe seasonal or daily variation will exacerbate already existing enforcement issues. Applying the SNW zone for the entire river between the Hawthorne and Sellwood bridges, combined with installation of signage, will enhance the public's awareness of the regulations and enhance enforcement.

Respectfully,



Eli Spevak
Chair

