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**Oregon State Marine Board
Administrative Overview
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Introduction

The Oregon State Marine Board was created in 1959 by the Oregon Legislature in response to the growing popularity of recreational boating and the federal Boating Safety Act of 1958. The Board sets state boating policy and has the authority to enact rules for boat operation. The governor appoints the five board members for four-year terms. The members must be residents of the United States and have resided in this state for at least one year at the time of the appointment. All appointments are subject to confirmation of the Senate. The Board is also responsible for the appointment of a State Marine Director. The State Marine Director is the head of the administrative arm of the Oregon State Marine Board.

The Board seeks to provide boaters with safety, education, marine law enforcement, boating facilities and titling and registration services. The board titles and registers recreational vessels. It establishes statewide boating regulations and advises and assists county sheriffs and the State Police in marine law enforcement. The powers and duties of the Board include devising a system of identifying number boats, floating homes, and boathouses that conforms with the Federal Government system, aid in development of boating facilities, to publish and distribute boating laws, regulate the navigational markings used by the state, control pollution of the waters of the state, regulate ski course markers and ski jumps, and produce guidelines for the use of polystyrene in the repair and maintenance of existing docks and floats.

To promote safe boating, the board publishes brochures and provides boating-education courses; the board also sponsors water-safety programs for youth. It provides grants to develop and maintain accessible boating facilities and protect water quality. The board also registers guides, outfitters and charter boat operators. The board carries out a survey of boaters every 3 years. It also has the authority to remove obstructions in waterways.

The Oregon State Marine Board's major revenue sources include boater registration and title fees, motorboat fuel tax transfers from the Oregon Department of Transportation, and federal grants. Smaller amounts of revenue are generated from fines and penalties, outfitter and guide registrations, and charter boat licenses. The majority of expenditures go toward administration and education, facilities construction and maintenance, and law enforcement.

History

The Oregon State Marine Board was established in 1959 by HB 595 (O.L. 1959, p. 1464). The bill also created the Boating Safety Policy which has been the guideline for the Marine Board. The Board, under the guidance of the Boating Safety Policy, is responsible for the safety of persons and property connected with the use, operation and equipment of boats and to promote uniformity of the pertaining laws.

The disposition of money received by the State Marine Board was amended by HB 1667 of 1965 (O.L. 1965, p. 1198). The Marine Board deposited all moneys received into a General Fund account and drew upon that account to pay the expenses of administering and enforcing their constitutional requirements. All money left over was to be distributed to the counties. The State Marine Board determines how much and how often these disbursements are to be within the requirements of the law.

SB 154 of 1971 amended the distribution process of excess Marine Board funds (O.L. 1971, p. 772). The funds would now be apportioned according to the amount determined by the board where there is a need by law enforcement.

Also in 1971, the U.S. Congress passed PL 90-542, the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which was implemented by HB 1627 and HB 1213 (O.L. 1971, p. 1627 and p. 1804). These same two bills also implemented the Scenic Waterways Act.

The Boating activity survey was changed in 1973 by SB 630 to be performed once every three years instead of annually (O.L. 1973, p. 1139). HB 5021, setting the appropriation, also changed the distribution to include “cities, counties, and park and recreation districts.” (O.L. 1973, p. 1887)

SB 5531 of 1979 set aside portions of the general fund for the Marine Board to use as marine facility grants. These grants were for the repair or construction of safe marine facilities (O.L. 1979, p. 994).

The 1989 Legislative Assembly created a seven member advisory committee to the Board. The advisory committee was to “provide advice and recommendations” regarding communication between the board and river guides and outfitters and other issues pertaining to the guiding and outfitting industry. HB 2821 of 1993 increased this advisory board to eleven members (O.L. 1993, p. 256).

In 1999, the State Marine Board was required by HB 2977 by the Oregon Legislature to establish and implement a program to provide mandatory boater safety education to boaters in Oregon (O.L. 1999, p. 1776).

Current Organization

Division and Unit Breakdown:

Office of the Director

Administration

Planning

Registration

State Marine Board

Business Services Division

Accounting

Information Technology

Education/Information Division

Facilities Division

Law Enforcement Division

Primary Agency Statutes and Administrative Rule Chapters

Oregon Administrative Rule 250: Oregon State Marine Board

Oregon Revised Statutes:

803 – Vehicle Title and Registration

830 – Small Watercraft

Chronology

- 1959 Oregon State Marine Board established.
- 1965 Disposition of money received by Marine Board amended by HB 1667.
- 1971 SB 154 amended the distribution process of excess Marine Board funds.
- 1971 Congress passed PL 90-542, the Federal Wild Scenic Rivers Act
- 1973 Role of Boating Activity Survey expanded
- 1979 SB 5531 allowed portions of general fund to be used as marine facility grants.
- 1989 Legislative Assembly created a seven member advisory committee to the Board
- 1999 Establishment of mandatory Boater Safety Education program

Bibliography

Laws of the State of Oregon. 1959-2005.
Oregon State Marine Board Website. [Http://www.boatoregon.com/](http://www.boatoregon.com/)
Secretary of State. Oregon Blue Book. 2007-2008.