

Legislation Text

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A MOTION in support of the conservation efforts for the Lake Sammamish  
Kokanee.

WHEREAS, Lake Sammamish Kokanee are a significant ecological, cultural, historic and social asset  
in a highly urbanized watershed, and

WHEREAS, the Lake Sammamish Kokanee is in decline and in jeopardy of extinction, and

WHEREAS, immediate action is needed to prevent the extinction of the Lake Sammamish Kokanee,  
and

WHEREAS, a coalition of cities, nonprofit organizations and King County has been established to  
promote the recovery of Lake Sammamish Kokanee and has filed a petition seeking to protect the Lake  
Sammamish Kokanee in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, and

WHEREAS, a biological study has been completed that recommends immediate action to begin  
artificial propagation for protecting and sustaining the genetic material of the population and improving the  
abundance of the population, and

WHEREAS, the Washington state Department of Fish and Wildlife in Issaquah runs and operates  
several hatcheries in close proximity to the remaining Lake Sammamish Kokanee population that could be the  
location of a Kokanee propagation program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

A. King County is increasingly concerned that the future of the Lake Sammamish Kokanee is being  
jeopardized by the alarming decline in their abundance, productivity, diversity and distribution, significantly  
impairing their long-term viability;

B. King County commends the cities of Issaquah, Bellevue, Sammamish and Redmond, the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Trout Unlimited, People for Puget Sound, Save Lake Sammamish, Washington state Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and many citizen volunteers for their leadership and collaboration in the conservation of the Lake Sammamish Kokanee;

C. King County strongly encourages the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to list as endangered the Lake Sammamish Kokanee in accordance with the Endangered Species Act; and

D. King County recommends that the Washington state Department of Fish and Wildlife follow through with its proposal to implement an emergency conservation supplementation pilot program in the fall of 2009.

E. King County requests that Washington state Department of Fish and Wildlife evaluate its current practice of releasing fry from the Issaquah Hatchery in close proximity to the streams producing Kokanee fry and in timing that would increase the probability of predation on Kokanee fry by these hatchery releases, and implement actions to reduce impacts on Kokanee.

F. The King County executive is requested to include efforts support for the listing of Lake Sammamish Kokanee salmon under the Endangered Species Act as part of King County's 2011 federal agenda.