

### Spring Kokanee Workgroup Meeting: April 23, 2025

A special thank you to Allen Quinn and the City of Issaquah for support hosting our spring 2025 meeting. The hybrid meeting format allowed for remote as well as in person participation.

Meeting highlights, below:

- **Announcements (Alison Agness, King County)**

Program updates were provided on a recent Kokanee ILA Management Committee meeting, a recent briefing for the Sammamish City Council on the kokanee recovery program, reminders about volunteer opportunities, and introduced Councilmember Kent Treen as the ILA Management Committee's new Chair who expressed a desire to stay connected with the Kokanee Workgroup and support funding needs.

During announcements, the Kokanee Workgroup recognized the passing of Senator Bill Ramos, a champion for kokanee. The Workgroup requested that Alison draft a letter of condolence to the family on behalf of the Kokanee Workgroup. Please provide feedback on the [draft letter](#) in advance of the anticipated distribution date of June 27. The Kokanee Workgroup also recognized the longstanding leadership of Councilmember John Stokes, who recently stepped down from his position on Bellevue City Council as well as the Kokanee ILA Management Committee. Eric LaFrance is appointed to an alternate seat on the ILA Management Committee and will be the primary member until the City of Bellevue identifies a replacement, elected member to the committee.

- **Fry Trapping and Remote Stream Incubator Program Updates (Dave Kyle, Trout Unlimited)**

Dave Kyle provided a presentation of technical updates and the successful conclusion of the 18<sup>th</sup> kokanee fry trapping season and 8<sup>th</sup> year operating remote stream incubators. This year marks 18-consecutive years of fry trapping led by Trout Unlimited's Three Rivers Chapter, involving at least 1,500 hours of work each season. Please find a copy of this presentation [here](#).

Questions and topics of discussion raised during this presentation included:

- Expansion plans for the remote stream incubator program, touching on locations and relationship to upcoming barrier removal projects on Lewis Creek and George Davis Creek.
- Concerns expressed about unfiltered stormwater or construction-related water quality impacts to redds/fry and the operation of remote stream incubators.

- **Kokanee Work Group Communications Planning (Alison Agness, King County)**

Alison Agness recapped the workgroup's recent conversations about communications planning and work session, shared an update on communications funding and spending plans, and sought feedback to scope the development of an outline for a Kokanee Work Group communications plan, using the [WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council's communications plan](#) as a template. Please find a copy of this presentation [here](#).

A productive discussion resulted from this presentation, including questions and discussion about:

- Are the Kokanee Work Group's vision and goals the same as WRIA 8 or slightly different, noting the difference in geography and focus on kokanee, but recognizing that many goals will align. Also noting there is less overlap with strategies.
  - While the communications plan will emphasize kokanee, the plan would also note the Work Group's support for other fish in the basin, too.
  - Interest to discuss origins or guidelines WRIA 8 considered when developing its communications plan.
  - Interest to review other communication plan templates in addition to WRIA 8's plan when developing a draft plan outline.
  - The Kokanee Work Group reached consensus that Alison Agness should start drafting a plan outline for feedback at our summer meeting.
- **Draft List of Potential Actions to Support Kokanee Recovery (Alison Agness, King County):**

Alison Agness provided a presentation to ground the Kokanee Workgroup in an exercise to identify potential actions to support kokanee recovery. This initial brainstorming exercise generated a [list of potential actions](#) that members can add to over time. Following review of the updated ecological survey, members will have an opportunity to rank the drafted list of actions to identify program priorities going forward. Please find a copy of the presentation [here](#).
- **Around the Watershed Updates**
    - Dave Kyle of Trout Unlimited provided an update on Laughing Jacobs Creek restoration work, noting the start of a busy field season. He also provided an update on the status of an RFP for a Tibbetts Creek flood protection and restoration design project. He shared that this summer will include more invasive aquatic vegetation work building from recommendations of a technical workshop last year. Continuing to the following year, this work will be supported with CWM funding, noting approval of an award expected this September.
    - Alix Lee-Tigner of Trout Unlimited shared an update that the Department of Ecology in collaboration with King County and USGS will start monitoring 6PPD-q levels in the watershed, deploying samplers through the summer. Trout Unlimited will be looking for volunteers to implement passive sampling by next year including in key kokanee spawning streams, with a particular focus during the storm season. This work will help quantify the toxin and identify hotspots where remediation is needed.
    - Allen Quinn shared an update from the City of Issaquah related to treatment coming online soon for 6PPD-q through a significant portion of old town Issaquah.
    - David St John shared an update on the departure of Executive Dow Constantine, noting that in his final speech as the Executive, he pointed out his work on kokanee as one of his highlights of his time as Executive, highlighting the recent big return. He also noted that the current active Executive Braddock was at the kokanee fry release last year, and really enjoyed it.