

2023 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
SPU	313	A	001-2023

Budget Action Title: Request that SPU support the Lake Washington sockeye salmon co-managers as they assess the ongoing feasibility of transporting sockeye salmon through the Lake Washington Ship Canal, and provide a report describing those efforts

Ongoing: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Andrew Lewis

Council Members: Lisa Herbold, Dan Strauss

Staff Analyst: Brian Goodnight

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	BC	SN
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent would request that Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) support the co-managers of Lake Washington sockeye salmon as they assess the ongoing feasibility of transporting sockeye salmon captured near the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, commonly known as the Ballard Locks, through the Lake Washington Ship Canal.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe are the co-managers of Lake Washington sockeye salmon and, as such, are responsible for leadership and implementation of sockeye salmon transport efforts.

According to WDFW, less than half of the sockeye salmon returning to the Ballard Locks in recent years have been able to complete their journey and spawn in the Cedar River or at the Cedar River Sockeye Hatchery. Among other factors, the health and survival of the salmon are impacted by the high temperatures and low dissolved oxygen in the Lake Washington Ship Canal.

In 2021 and 2022, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, with the assistance of WDFW and the support of SPU and King County, initiated a project to capture adult sockeye salmon at the Ballard Locks and transport them by truck directly to the Cedar River Sockeye Hatchery, which is owned by SPU. Preliminary analysis of the data in 2021 indicate that about 97 percent of the transported fish survived to spawning.

The Council further requests that SPU provide a report or presentation to the Transportation and Seattle Public Utilities Committee by September 1, 2023 that describes SPU's efforts to support the co-managers in sockeye salmon transport, provides the results of any assessments that have occurred on the transport program, and discusses the feasibility of other transport methods (such as barges) or related actions that the co-managers are considering.

Responsible Council Committee(s):

Transportation and Seattle Public Utilities

Date Due to Council:

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September 1, 2023