CHEMICALS OF EMERGING CONCERN (CECs) IN SALMON SPAWNING AND REARING HABITAT

Recent research has demonstrated that unregulated contaminants in western Washington streams and rivers may negatively impact the health and survival of spawning salmon and their offspring. The results of this project are a first step towards expanding local knowledge about the potential exposure of both juvenile and adult salmon to mixtures of chemicals.

What we’re doing

This project will improve our understanding of the presence and concentrations of CECs in freshwater salmon spawning and rearing habitats in the Cedar-Lake Washington and Duwamish-Green basins (WRIAs 8 and 9) of King County.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT?

CECs are unregulated chemicals used in a variety of consumer products and medicines and are not commonly monitored in the aquatic environment. Currently, little is known about their presence, distribution, or the magnitude of concentrations present in freshwater systems, especially in critical salmon spawning and rearing habitat.

WHAT YOU CAN DO?

Dispose of your medications and cleaning products properly, use chemical products sparingly, educate yourself and become aware of personal behaviors and consumer choices that affect your health and that of your environment.

ABOUT KING COUNTY

The King County Science and Technical Support Section in the Water and Land Resources Division collects, analyzes, models and interprets information in support of King County’s various environmental programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Dean Wilson, King County.

Website:
https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/wlr/sections-science-section.aspx#nav_sciwho