Jack Havens

The DEIS and EIS documents regarding the Capitol Lake-Deschutes Estuary Long Term Management Project fail to reveal at least two relevant publicly funded research summaries regarding the viability of a lake, and particularly Capitol Lake to serve as rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon. The two research articles are:
1. Koehler, M.K. Fresh, D. Beauchamp, Cordell, C. Simenstad, D. Seiler. 2006. Diet and Bioenergetics of Lake-rearing Juvenile Chinook Salmon in Lake Washington. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 135:1580-1591 9pp. and
2. Engstrom-Hegg, R.T. 1955. Environmental Relationships of young Chinook Salmon in Capitol Lake and the Deschutes River System. Washington Department of Fisheries, Olympia Washington 76 pp. (First scientific study of Capitol Lake after the Lake was created).

The Koehler study concludes,"...many studies have confirmed that the feeding and growth performance of juvenile salmon in the littoral habitats of Lake Washington were comparable to those for Chinook salmon reared in estuarine and riverine environments, see Healy and others, 1982; Simenstad and others, 1982; Rondorf and others, 1990; Miller and others, 1997, and Duffy, 2003."

The Engstrom-Hegg article concludes, "The data do not indicate that the conversion of Capitol Lake to Freshwater had any great effect on survival, either for better or worse."
Observers are encouraged to read chapter 7 of "A New Percival Creek Estuary and Capitol Lake, A Win-Win Alternative for Olympia and Washington State." by Dave Milne, Jack Havens, Bob Wubbena and Bob Holman. 2026., for a more complete understanding of the relationship of Chinook juveniles, Capitol Lake and an estuary. It should be noted and emphasized that an estuary replacing the Lake in this basin will provide a fourfold increase in the number of compression points for salmon predators, a major concern of Koehler.