

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Elizabeth Kosa
Director**




NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council, and
The Honorable Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

THROUGH: Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Director

FROM: Gary Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager 

DATE: October 20, 2025

RE: Joint Resolution Adopting the Lake Whatcom Invasive
Freshwater Mussel Rapid and Extended Response Plan

The introduction of freshwater mussels into Lake Whatcom or adjacent water bodies represents a significant threat to our water supply and ecosystem. Swiftly responding to the detection of invasive mussels in our water bodies is necessary to prevent an infestation. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife is the state agency with lead authority on responding to the introduction of aquatic invasive species. However, local jurisdictions do have a supporting role to play should invasive freshwater mussels be detected in Lake Whatcom. Consequently, the Lake Whatcom Management Program partners, including Whatcom County, the City of Bellingham, and the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District have prepared the Lake Whatcom Invasive Freshwater Mussel Rapid and Extended Response Plan that describes the procedures that will be followed if invasive freshwater mussels are detected in Lake Whatcom. The City of Bellingham and Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District are in the process of adopting the plan through the attached joint resolution.

Requested Action

Public Works is requesting the County Council to adopt the Lake Whatcom Invasive Freshwater Mussel Rapid and Extended Response Plan via the attached joint resolution.

Please contact Gary Stoyka at extension 6218 if you have any questions regarding this information.

Attachment