Kokanee fingerlings planted in Lake Tahoe

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife recently released 138,099 kokanee salmon fingerlings into Lake Tahoe.

In all, 634,430 kokanee were released into 13 lakes and reservoirs throughout the state.

Kokanee were introduced into California waters to provide diverse recreational angling opportunities for anglers and have become an extremely popular sport fish. They are typically smaller than the landlocked Chinook salmon with the average size about 12 inches.

Due to the continuing drought conditions making it difficult to obtain kokanee eggs within the state, this year’s allotment was supplemented with eggs provided by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Instead of migrating to the ocean, adult kokanees inhabit large lakes before returning to their natal streams or gravelly shorelines to spawn. Like all Pacific salmon, kokanee die after spawning, the whole life cycle taking from three to seven years.

The fish were planted in the following waters:

Water	County	Fish Planted
Boca Reservoir	Napa	25,042
Bullards Bar Reservoir	Yuba	70,140
Donner Lake	Nevada	

25,042

Hell Hole Reservoir Placer
25,042

Little Grass Valley Reservoir Plumas
15,052

Stampede Reservoir Sierra
60,027

Union Valley Reservoir El Dorado 49,995

Lake Berryessa Napa
50,111

Bass Lake Madera
50,064

Don Pedro Reservoir Tuolumne
19,980

New Melones Tuolumne
55,524

Shaver Lake Fresno
50,312.