



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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January 31, 2022

JT Austin
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Jennifer Hennessey
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Jim Cahill
Office of Financial Management
P.O. Box 43113
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Dear Ms. Austin, Ms. Hennessey and Mr. Cahill:

Pursuant to Emergency Proclamation 22-02, Green Crab Infestation, the enclosed report is provided to meet the directive of RCW [77.135.090](#)(4). The proclamation requires the Director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to continually evaluate the effects of the emergency measures and report these to the Governor at intervals of not less than ten days.

In summary, over the last ten days WDFW continued internal policy coordination, authorized \$600K in emergency measures spending to support Lummi Nation and to hire field technicians, submitted \$8.6M European Green Crab response budget request to Senate Ways and Means and House Appropriations committees, responded to local and national media inquiries, and held briefings and discussions with several Western Washington Tribes, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and the Departments of Natural Resources, Ecology and Parks. The Department is on track with available emergency measure resources and recommends continuing emergency measures specified under the emergency proclamation.

Sincerely,

Kelly Cunningham
Fish Program Director

Enclosure

cc: Kelly Susewind
Allen Pleus
Kevin Wickersham, EMD

WDFW – European green crab

European Green Crab Emergency Measures Report to the Governor



Report Purpose: Meet requirements of RCW [77.135.090](#)(4) that requires the Director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to continually evaluate the effects of the emergency measures and report these to the Governor at intervals of not less than ten days. The Director must immediately advise the Governor if the Director finds that the emergency no longer exists or if certain emergency measures should be discontinued.

January 28, 2022 Summary: Gov. Jay Inslee [issued Emergency Proclamation 22-02](#): Green Crab Infestation on Jan. 19, 2022 to address the exponential increase in European green crab populations within the Lummi Nation's Sea Pond and outer coast areas. WDFW continued internal policy coordination and authorized \$600K in emergency measures spending to support Lummi Nation and to hire field technicians, submitted \$8.6M European Green Crab response budget request to Senate Ways and Means and House Appropriations committees, responded to local and national media inquiries, and held briefings and discussions with several Western Washington Tribes, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and the Departments of Natural Resources, Ecology and Parks. The Department is on track with available emergency measure resources and does not recommend discontinuing any emergency measures specified under the emergency proclamation.



January 28, 2022

European Green Crab Emergency Measures Report to the Governor

January 19, 2022:

Governor Inslee issues Emergency Proclamation 22-02: Green Crab Infestation. The proclamation –

- Orders the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to begin implementation of emergency measures as necessary to effect the eradication of or to prevent the permanent establishment and expansion of European green crab.
- Directs the Department of Ecology, the Department of Natural Resources and the State Parks and Recreation Commission to identify European green crab management as a high priority on their respective state-owned aquatic lands and to facilitate implementing the emergency measures described herein.
- Urges the Legislature to provide additional emergency funding as requested by the WDFW as soon as possible.

Accomplishments January 19 to 28, 2022

- Weekly WDFW internal policy coordination meetings.
- The Department has submitted the \$8.6M European Green Crab response budget request to both Senate Ways and Means and House Appropriations committees. The submitted budget details the purposes of the funding and delineated which funds are being passed through to tribes or non-governmental organizations. The request has been well received and has been included on the list of 2022 Supplemental budget increases – subject to full committee approval. Questions have been asked about the accessibility of last year's \$6M AIS funding, commitments to zebra-quagga interdiction and northern pike control. Response is Department needs to continue these as priorities in addition to increased European green crab suppression efforts.
- Department authorizes \$600,000 in emergency measures spending with priority to support Lummi Nation in early management of their sea pond infestation - \$300,000 for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Unit and \$300,000 passthrough to Lummi Nation. Start of contracting process with Lummi Nation.
- AIS Unit starting hiring process for 6 technicians that will be stationed in Bellingham to support Lummi Nation and setting up bid process for acquiring critical EGC equipment and supplies.
- Responding to numerous inquiries from tribes and stakeholders on emergency measures implementation plans.
- Start of issuing AIS Permits to management partners for possession of EGC.
- Public Affairs and AIS staff supported multiple local and national media requests, ranging from [KING 5](#) to [USA Today](#), and began to develop enhanced outreach and web content for green crab monitoring, identification and public reporting.
- AIS staff and Public Affairs scheduled online briefings in February for Salish Sea (Feb. 15) and outer coast (Feb. 17) European green crab stakeholders.



- January 19 – OFM Director Schumacher issues letter to Senate Ways and Means and House Appropriations Committees requesting they include the full WDFW funding proposal of \$8.9 million.
- January 20 – WDFW [publishes blog post](#) detailing European green crab emergency, funding request and 2021 trapping outcomes at Lummi Sea Pond and outer coast.
- January 20 – Briefing and discussion with Western Washington Tribes.
- January 25 – Briefing and discussion with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.
- January 26 – Briefing and discussion with the Departments of Natural Resources, Ecology and Parks on proclamation requirement to identify European green crab management as a high priority on their respective state-owned aquatic lands and to facilitate implementing the emergency measures.
- January 28 – Updated European green crab factsheet issued.

Pending Tasks

- Meeting with WDFW, RCO, WSDA and EMD to discuss options on setting up a Multi-agency Coordination Group as short-term policy forum for advising the Department on establishing European green crab policy and technical functions necessary to successfully prioritize action areas, allocate scarce resources, and plan for long-term policy management.
- Briefing to the Fish and Wildlife Commission on emergency measures status.
- Meeting with Puget Sound Federal Task Force to brief them and begin discussions on federal roles and funding opportunities to support emergency measures actions.
- Continue preparing for two stakeholder briefing meetings – one for Salish Sea and one for the outer coast.
- Planning for EGC presentations to Congressional staffers as part of the National Invasive Species Awareness Week (March 3), Washington Invasive Species Council (March 10), and the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (April 26-28).

Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format, language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov).

For more information, see <https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation>.

