

# 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. Gov. Jay Inslee [issued Emergency Proclamation 22-02](#): Green Crab Infestation on Jan. 19, 2022 to address the exponential increase in European green crab (EGC) populations within the Lummi Nation’s Sea Pond and outer coast areas.

**March 18, 2022 Summary:** WDFW Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) unit and Public Affairs staff continued hiring, policy formation, planning and early implementation of European green crab emergency management measures. The full amount requested (\$8.568 million) for European green crab emergency management was appropriated by the State Legislature and awaits Governor Inslee’s signature on the final supplemental budget. Coordination with state and federal partners continued to support federal funding, contracts, and a coordinated management framework.



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## Accomplishments March 5 to March 18, 2022

- Weekly WDFW internal policy coordination meetings.
- **Hiring:** Initial recruitment for four additional technical staff to support the Lummi Sea Pond work closed this week and now in process of setting up interviews with anticipated hiring/onboarding by mid-April. Continuing a phased hiring process of 17 new AIS Unit staff to begin supporting statewide European green crab (EGC) management in late-April to mid-May. The position to support the Coastal Management Grant program is already in place and the outreach and community engagement position specific to European green crabs has been submitted into the recruitment process as well.
- **Legislative funding:** Senate Bill 5693, Supplemental Operations budget, was passed by both the Washington State Senate and House included the full amount requested (\$8.568 million) for European green crab emergency management.
  - (67) \$2,472,000 of the General Fund—state appropriation in fiscal year 2022 and \$6,096,000 of the General Fund—state appropriation in fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for the department to implement eradication and control measures on European green crabs through coordination and grants with partner organizations. The department must provide quarterly progress reports on the success and challenges of the measures to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2022.
- **Federal Funding:** Governor Inslee sent a letter to Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland on March 11<sup>th</sup> to support a joint proposal advanced by staff of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to take early action against the European green crab invasion. The letter stated that, “The joint proposal by USGS, BIA, and USFWS for \$7.5 million over five years would immediately support, complement, and enhance the existing response programs by the state and Tribes. Proposed federal efforts fill important gaps and leverage federal expertise and roles, including advancing scientific research, modeling, and assessment of control and eradication strategies (USGS); providing technical, financial, and collaboration support to participating tribes (BIA); and expanding technical and financial support to Tribes and other collaborators (USFWS).”
- **Contracts:** In anticipation of receiving state legislative funding, WDFW continues to initiate contract development to convert the legislative passthrough funding proposals into scopes of work with the intent to be ready for signatures once the Governor signs the funding bill. These include the Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Washington Sea Grant, and the Recreation and Conservation Office.

## Other Updates



- March 10: Washington Invasive Species Council – emergency measures status and consultation – [agenda](#) – [zoom registration](#)

## Public Affairs, Communications and Outreach

- WDFW Public Affairs staff submitted a recruitment request to hire a Community Outreach and Environmental Education Specialist dedicated to European green crab outreach, communications, and public engagement, in accordance with emergency measures appropriations from the State Legislature. The position will be based in Mill Creek or La Conner with travel to the Washington Coast and Bellingham. We hope to hire by mid-April.
- Public Affairs AIS lead continued planning and scheduling spring/summer EGC community outreach, public engagement, and education, including to support green crab identification and response through presentations, community meetings and tabling at fairs and festivals.
- Public Affairs and AIS staff coordinated drafting of European green crab articles, outreach materials, and website content to support community awareness around EGC presence, reporting, ecology, and ongoing emergency management actions and plans.
- Detailed information on EGC, webinar recordings, reports and partner updates are being archived on this webpage for green crab practitioners:  
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/carcinus-maenas>

General information on EGC such as identification and public reporting is posted at:  
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/greatest-concern/egc>

## Pending Tasks

- March 21: EGC presentation and discussion with WA Sea Grant to Grays Harbor MRC.
- March 23: EGC presentation to State Ocean Caucus.
- March 28: Anticipated start of EGC trapping in Lummi Sea Pond.
- April 26-28: Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference – EGC session presentations.

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

