

WDFW – European green crab

European Green Crab Emergency Measures Report to the Governor



A large female European green crab removed from the Seabeck area of Hood Canal by WDFW the week of May 25.

Report Purpose: Meet requirements of RCW [77.135.090\(4\)](#) that 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. 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.

May 15 to May 25, 2022 Report:

Detection of European green crab (EGC) by Washington Sea Grant Crab Team volunteers near Seabeck on Hood Canal in Kitsap County occurred on May 17. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) notified Tribal co-managers and partner agencies, and [issued a news release](#) on May 19 in coordination with Sea Grant, resulting in significant [local](#), [regional](#) and [national](#) media coverage. WDFW is currently deploying expanded rapid response trapping to the area including the use of environmental DNA monitoring in coordination with Washington Sea Grant. Initial trapping results have captured a few more EGC in the area and a full assessment will be provided during the next reporting period. WDFW is in close communications with local tribal co-managers on rapid response status. Based on rapid response results, WDFW will work with co-managers and partners on determining next EGC management steps.

WDFW Aquatic Invasive Species staff continued coordination with Lummi Nation Natural Resources to trap and remove European green crab (EGC) at the Lummi Sea Pond (LSP). 6,253 EGC were removed from inside the LSP by Lummi Nation and WDFW crews during the week of May 16, utilizing 1,182 trap checks. This is a significant increase in LSP EGC captures from recent weeks that may be due to water conditions and seasonal EGC behavior/biology. Lummi crews also removed 13 EGC from Lummi Bay outside the LSP at the Lummi River mouth. Lummi crews surveyed the Nooksack River delta for future trapping access. Northwest Straits Commission also featured European green crabs and their work in a [series of social media posts](#).

WDFW continued coordination with the Pacific and Grays Harbor County Conservation Districts regarding contracting and implementation of the new EGC Coastal Management Grant Program. WDFW also continues to provide ongoing equipment and supply support for the Willapa-Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association (WGHOGA) in their trapping efforts. WGHOGA representatives report trapping at total of 11,161 EGC in 2022 as of May 24 at sites in Willapa Bay, and were featured in a recent [Chinook Observer editorial](#). THANK YOU to our local allies!

WDFW is implementing an Incident Command System (ICS) structure to facilitate a statewide EGC management strategy. The state Emergency Management Division has assigned this as Mission #22-1085. Since this is a relatively slow-moving emergency (as compared to earthquake or wildfire response), the ICS structure will be used as the overall framework for Department communications and coordination. To oversee the ICS process, Director Susewind delegated Allen Pleus, the Department's Aquatic Invasive Species Unit Manager, to be the Incident Commander. The ICS structure is respectful of local and state authorities and does not impose upon tribal rights and federal jurisdictions—tribes and federal agencies may choose to be part of the ICS process or act independently. To support the ICS process, the Department will be meeting with tribal co-managers, state and federal agencies, and other jurisdictions/partners to establishing an advisory EGC Multiagency Coordination Group (MAC Group).

WDFW continued hiring, including four more Scientific Technician 2s starting May 23rd (2 for the outer coast and 2 for the LSP) and hired a new Biologist 2 to support coordination and research. 300 new signs to support EGC identification and reporting at marinas, beaches, and other access sites were ordered, as were 1000 stickers with a QR code directing to the WDFW/WA Invasive Species Council reporting form (see below).

Additional information and further details will be provided in the next European green crab management quarterly report or are available upon request. Reports are posted at:
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/carcinus-maenas>



May 26, 2022

