

# WDFW – European green crab

## European Green Crab Emergency Measures Report to the Governor



*Two European green crab removed from the Seabeck area of Hood Canal by WDFW the week of June 3.*

**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.

### June 5 to 15, 2022 Report:

#### General Updates

Under mission #22-1085 as assigned by the state Emergency Management Division, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) continued establishment of the Incident Command System (ICS) to facilitate a statewide European green crab (EGC) management strategy, including issuing the first Situational Report (SitRep1 061622).

WDFW is working closely with the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to establish a Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group under the ICS structure, as well as to implement a new European green crab Emergency Measures Fund Program with \$1,100,000 in funding available for interagency contracts to state, tribal, federal, and local governments. In addition, WDFW is implementing a European Green Crab Coastal Management Grant Program to be disbursed by the Pacific and Grays Harbor County conservation districts, with \$675,000 in funding available for local, non-profit, or private entities that seek to conduct green crab removal.

Information about the ICS, personnel and equipment deployment, and other general updates will be available for the public, stakeholders, and media in a forthcoming news release.

WDFW has also created a email listserv for those interested in EGC Management Updates. The sign-up form is available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/lists>

Through the efforts of WDFW Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) staff, the Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Willapa-Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association, and other tribes, agencies, and partners, more than 64,000 EGC have been removed from Washington waters in 2022 as of June 11.

## Salish Sea Branch Updates

**At the Lummi Sea Pond (LSP), the Lummi Nation reports 5,012 EGC removed (41 gravid females) in 1,071 trap sets during the week of May 30, and 6,961 EGC removed (76 gravid females) in 1779 trap sets during the week of June 10.** Outside the LSP, Lummi staff removed 3 EGC from the Lummi River mouth in 149 trap sets. No EGC were captured at sites further up the Lummi River or in the Lummi River marsh during this reporting period.

In northern Whatcom County, the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) with support from Washington Conservation Corps removed 4 EGC from five sites in Drayton Harbor in 240 trap sets. In Skagit County, NWSC removed 2 EGC from three sites in Samish Bay in 130 trap sets.

## Coastal Branch Updates

WDFW led EGC field training for Department staff in Grays Harbor at the Johns River Wildlife Area. Staff from the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and a KBTC (Tacoma PBS affiliate) videographer attended. WDFW and DNR also conducted EGC surveys at Elk River near Westport with Washington Sea Grant.

Permits, traps, and other support continue to be available from WDFW for tidelands owners and shellfish growers as supplies allow. Those requesting assistance or equipment support should contact [ais@wdfw.wa.gov](mailto:ais@wdfw.wa.gov).

Representatives of the Willapa-Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association (WGHOGA) report capturing between 300 and 400 EGC per day in recent updates. Trapping removal efforts for WGHOGA are centered near the town of Nahcotta so far in 2022. The Shoalwater Tribe of Indians also reported capturing more than 7,768 EGC in 2022 so far.

**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>

June 16, 2022

