

WDFW – European Green Crab Update

Public Update on European Green Crab Management



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

Report Purpose: Published approximately every two weeks, these regular updates are intended to inform the public, local stakeholders, media, and others regarding the status of European green crab (EGC) management and emergency measures deployment in Washington state, supporting the public information responsibilities of the Incident Command System (ICS) and Public Information Officer (PIO).

For additional information, please see: wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/carcinus-maenas
European green crab news, communications and outreach materials are available under the Resources tab.

To report European green crab sightings or obtain identification resources, visit: wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab

July 11, 2022 Update

2022 European Green Crab Capture/Removal Totals:

Prior	72,500 (revised)
Current Operational Period	15,500 (June 13 to 26, 2022)
Total	88,000 as of June 26, 2022*

**WDFW is no longer including EGC removal data for specific areas in public reports in the interest of consistency. The high number of European green crab removed so far in 2022 reflects the coordinated deployment of significantly increased personnel, equipment, and other capture effort by WDFW, Native American tribes, shellfish growers, federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations.*

Governor's 10-Day Emergency Measures Status Update (July 7, 2022): Per RCW 77.135.090, the WDFW Director continues to evaluate the effects of the European Green Crab emergency measures as provided under Proclamation 22-02, finds that the emergency continues to persist, and advises that all emergency measures should be continued. Details of the evaluation will be provided directly to you in Situation Reports issued every two weeks reflecting each Incident Command System operational period. Additional detail is available upon request.

Public Reporting and Crab Identification

WDFW continues to receive numerous reports from the public of native crab species misidentified for invasive European green crabs. While WDFW appreciates the public interest in helping to identify invasive species, **these incidents are examples of why WDFW calls on the public to photograph and report suspected European green crabs at wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab**, returning the crab in question unharmed to the water where it was found.

Most of these native crabs—including graceful crab, kelp crab, hairy helmet crab, and hairy shore crab—are regulated as Unclassified Marine Invertebrates and are illegal to kill, harvest, retain, or possess. See page 139 of the 2022-23 Washington Sport Fishing Rules or [regulations online](#).

If reports are verified as European green crabs, WDFW will follow up with trapping and monitoring if found in a new area. European green crabs are shore crabs and are found in shallow areas—typically less than 25 feet of water—including estuaries, mudflats, intertidal zones, and beaches. They are not likely to be caught by recreational crabbers or shrimpers operating in deeper water, but may be encountered by beachgoers, waders, clam and oyster harvesters, or those crabbing off docks or piers in shallow areas.

Crab identification guides and resources are [available online](#) and are copied at the bottom of this report, including a new flier available at: https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/European_green_crab_reporting_sign_2022.jpg

General Updates

Under mission #22-1085 as assigned by the state Emergency Management Division, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) continued the Incident Command System (ICS) for European green crab emergency measures deployment and coordination. More information is available below and in this June 17 news release: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/news/emergency-measures-deployed-control-invasive-european-green-crabs-washington-waters>

WDFW is soliciting proposals for a total of \$500,000 in funding available through the **FY2023 Coastal Management Grant Program-European Green Crab** for local, non-profit, or private entities that seek to conduct EGC removal on the Washington coast. First review of proposals will be July 21, so please submit proposals by COB July 18th. More information is available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/Green%20Crab%20RFP-Statement%20of%20Work%20FY23%207-1-22.pdf>

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is soliciting proposals for a total of \$1,100,00 in interagency agreement funding through the **FY2023 European Green Crab Emergency Grant Program** to support response to the European green crab emergency. More information is available at: https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Solicitation_EuropeanGreenCrabFunding.pdf

The European Green Crab (EGC) Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group met on June 24. Discussion included RCO EGC Emergency Measures Grant request for proposal and general ICS status. The next MAC Group meeting will be on July 13 and will focus on items such as joint communications. WDFW Aquatic Invasive Species unit staff worked to repair two boats impacted by equipment and supply thefts. Work



towards hiring, deployment of signage and other outreach materials, and coordination with shellfish growers continues.

Washington Sea Grant's [Crab Team](#) received the "Organization of the Year" award from WDFW for their EGC early detection program. More information available in [this news release](#).

European Green Crab ID and Reporting Resources



European green crab ID graphic.

[Click here for larger version.](#)

Example of WDFW's European green crab reporting and ID sign.

[Click here for larger version.](#)

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SUMMARY STATEMENT FOR BACKGROUND

On January 19, 2022, Washington State Governor Inslee issued Emergency Proclamation 22-02 which ordered the Washington 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.” This is a statewide proclamation for all marine and estuarine waters of the state that to be effective, will require coordination across state, tribal, and federal jurisdictions. To address this large and complex task, WDFW has implemented an Incident Command System (ICS) structure to facilitate a statewide European green crab (EGC) management strategy. The state Emergency Management Division has assigned this as Mission #22-1085. Since this is a relatively slower-moving emergency (as compared to earthquake or wildfire response), the ICS structure will be used as the overall framework for WDFW communications and coordination.

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Public updates on European Green Crab Management are posted at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/carcinus-maenas>

For more information or for media inquiries, please contact the European Green Crab Public Information Officer at chase.gunnell@dfw.wa.gov or contact ais@dfw.wa.gov.

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