









INVASIVE **EUROPEAN GREEN CRABS**









EUROPEAN GREEN CRABS THREATEN WASHINGTON'S:







ENVIRONMENT

TRIBAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

ECONOMY

HOW YOU CAN HELP

BE ON THE LOOKOUT

Look for European green crabs (EGC) anytime you are at the beach! You can identify them by the five spines on either side of their eyes. Color is not a good way to identify these crabs, as they aren't always green. EGC are small, typically less than four inches across the shell, and are found in shallow nearshore areas including estuaries, marshes, and tidal channels.

SUBMIT PHOTOS

Take a picture of any suspected European green crab and report it to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife or contact us:

1-888-WDFW-AIS // ais@dfw.wa.gov Reporting link: wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab





We are not asking the public to kill suspected European green crabs at this time. This is to protect native crabs, who have been misidentified as green crabs and killed.

















EUROPEAN GREEN CRABS IN WASHINGTON STATE:



Beginning around 2018, WDFW, tribes, and partners noticed increases in European green crabs in certain areas including Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor, Makah Bay, and Lummi Bay. In 2022, Governor Inslee issued an emergency order, the State Legislature provided funding, and coordinated measures to control and remove EGC were significantly ramped up.

EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB CONTROL

The main way WDFW, tribes, and partners are controlling European green crabs is through intensive trapping. Washington Sea Grant operates Crab Team, a monitoring network for early detection and tracking of green crab populations, with more than 60 sites sampled monthly by volunteers and partners.





A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE TRIBES AND PARTNERS WORKING HARD TO CONTROL EUROPEAN GREEN CRABS!

As a Prohibited species, it is illegal to possess a live European green crab in Washington. In this context, possess means transported, bought, or sold.

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).

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