

Aquatic Invasive Species Overview and Updates



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Fish Program



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) unit

Core functions

- Prevention
- Early detection
- Rapid response
- Infested site management
- Local and regional coordination
- Education and outreach
- Enforcement

Protect Your Waters From Aquatic Invasive Species

BEFORE and AFTER launching boat

CLEAN Clean interior/exterior of boat, trailer, & vehicle of any organic matter such as aquatic plants & mud. Dispose organic matter & unused bait in trash.	DRAIN Drain bilge, ballast, wells & buckets before you leave area. Keep bilge plug out during transport.	DRY Dry equipment before launching watercraft into another body of water.
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For information on FREE boat inspections, call 1-888-WDFW-AIS (933-9247) or visit wdfw.wa.gov/ais.

Before you launch a boat that is not registered in Washington, you MUST purchase an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit.

How to buy:

- Online at fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov
- Find a license dealer near you at wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/dealers

Funds from permit sales supports efforts to keep Washington's waters free of aquatic invasive species and manage infestations when prevention fails.

Avoid Citations or Fines

Follow the permit an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit — Infraction — RCW 77.03.060

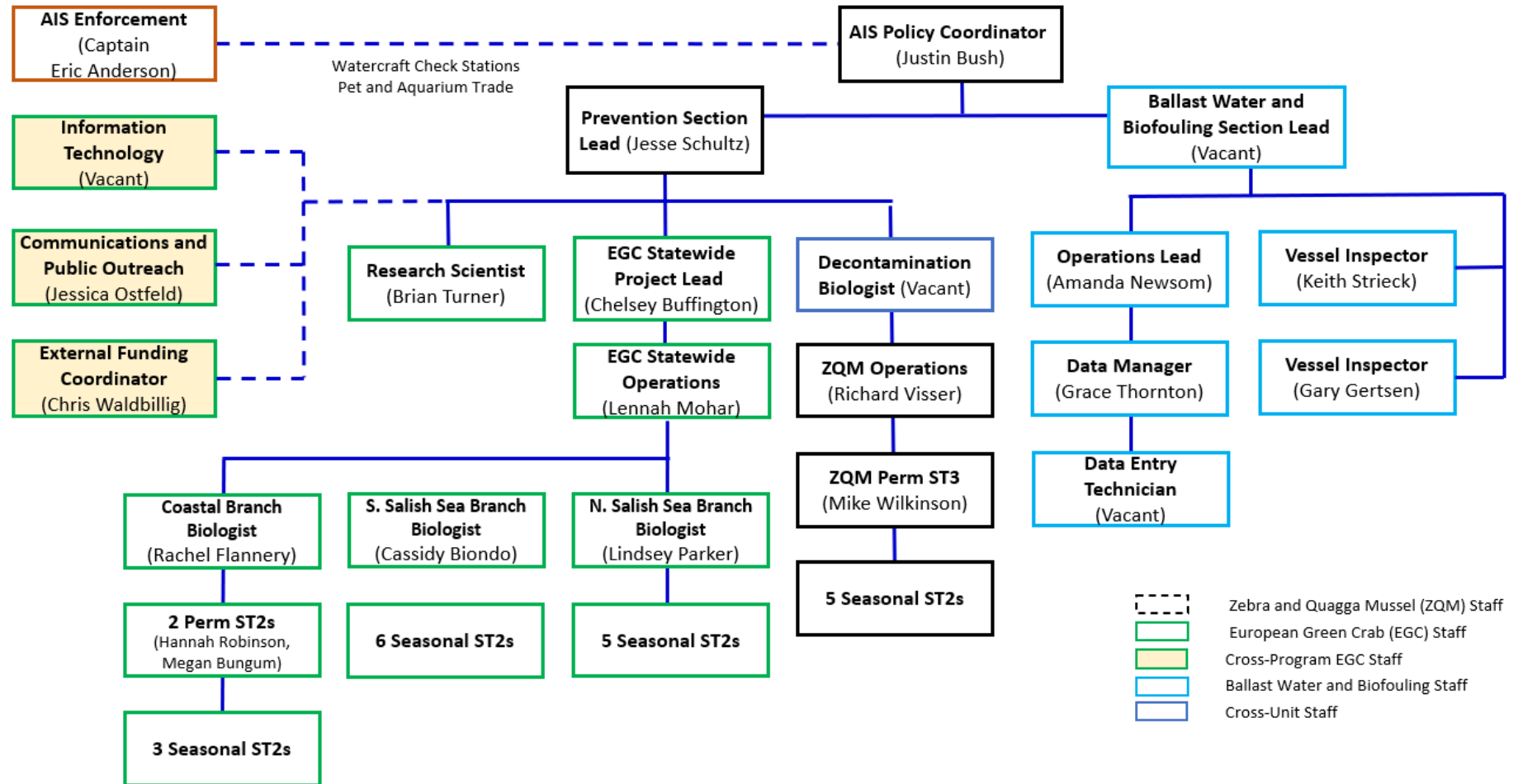
Prevention of aquatic invasive species not meet by Clean-Drain-Dry requirements — Infraction — RCW 77.03.170

Use motor fuel or petroleum oil prohibited species — up to class 1 felony — RCW 77.03.060(1)



Fish Program – AIS Structure

Cross-Program Coordination



November 14, 2023



Ballast Water and Biofouling Section



Implement Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 77.120 – Ballast Water [and Biofouling] Management

[See Oct. 17 WDFW blog post](#)



 : W. Carter / Public Domain



Prevention and Management Section

Implement Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 77.135

– Invasive Species

- Species Classification
- Decontamination
- Containment
- Permitting and Regulation
- Early Detection Monitoring
- Management Actions
- Education and Outreach



Enforcement Program Collaboration

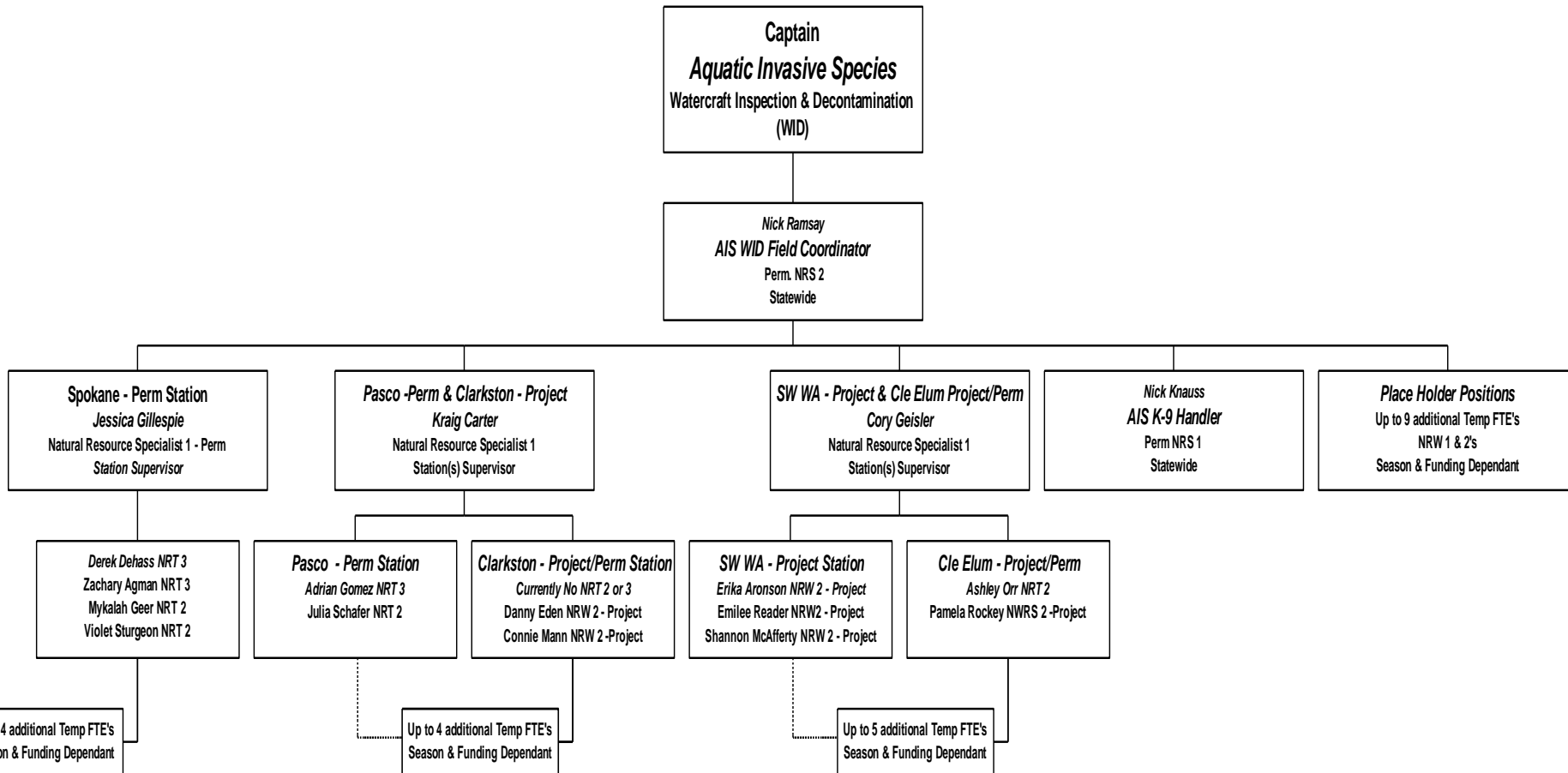
Implement Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 77.135

– Invasive Species

- Mandatory Watercraft Inspection
- Decontamination Orders
- Possession, Release, Trafficking
- Education and Outreach



Enforcement Program - AIS Structure



Cross Program Collaboration

Cross Cutting Issue

- Legislative Affairs
 - State
 - Federal
- Tribal Affairs
- Communications and Public Engagement (CAPE)
 - Media and external relations
 - Outreach and education
- Capital Asset Management Program (CAMP)
- Habitat
- Wildlife
- Information Technology
- Budget and Human Resources



Invasive European green crab



European green crabs threaten West Coast economies, environments, and tribal, cultural, and commercial resources

Federal funding and reinstatement of NOAA's Office of Aquatic Invasive Species are requested to combat European green crabs.

The European green crab is considered one of the world's worst invasive species. These shore crabs feed on clams, mussels, and other native shellfish. They can compete with Dungeness crabs and impact resources that are part of the cultural identity of tribes and native peoples as well.

European green crab federal funding request

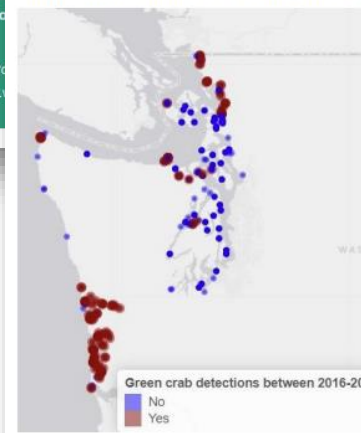


Request for federal funding and support for West Coast green crab response

We respectfully request that Congress recognize the emergency nature and destructive potential of European green crab, support Washington and other states' initiatives to combat this species, and act to minimize this destruction by implementing the following requests:

- Fund the reestablishment of the Office of Aquatic Invasive Species at NOAA headquarters to support state, tribal, and federal European green crab management programs.
- Appropriate \$5 million in fiscal year 2024 and future years to the Coastal Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Grant Program as authorized under the Frank LoBiondo Vessel Incidental Discharge Act of 2018.
- Provide funding for European green crab prevention, management, and data stewardship to:
 - \$300,000 to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge
 - \$750,000 to U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Threats and Invasive Species Research Program for its Western Fisheries Research Center and Alaska Science Center
 - \$8 million to Bureau of Indian Affairs' Invasive Species Program for its Northwest Region
 - Funding to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for Washington's coastal shellfish growers who have been impacted by European green crabs.

European green crab detections in Washington state 2016 – 2022



More information is available online at wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab

Impacts



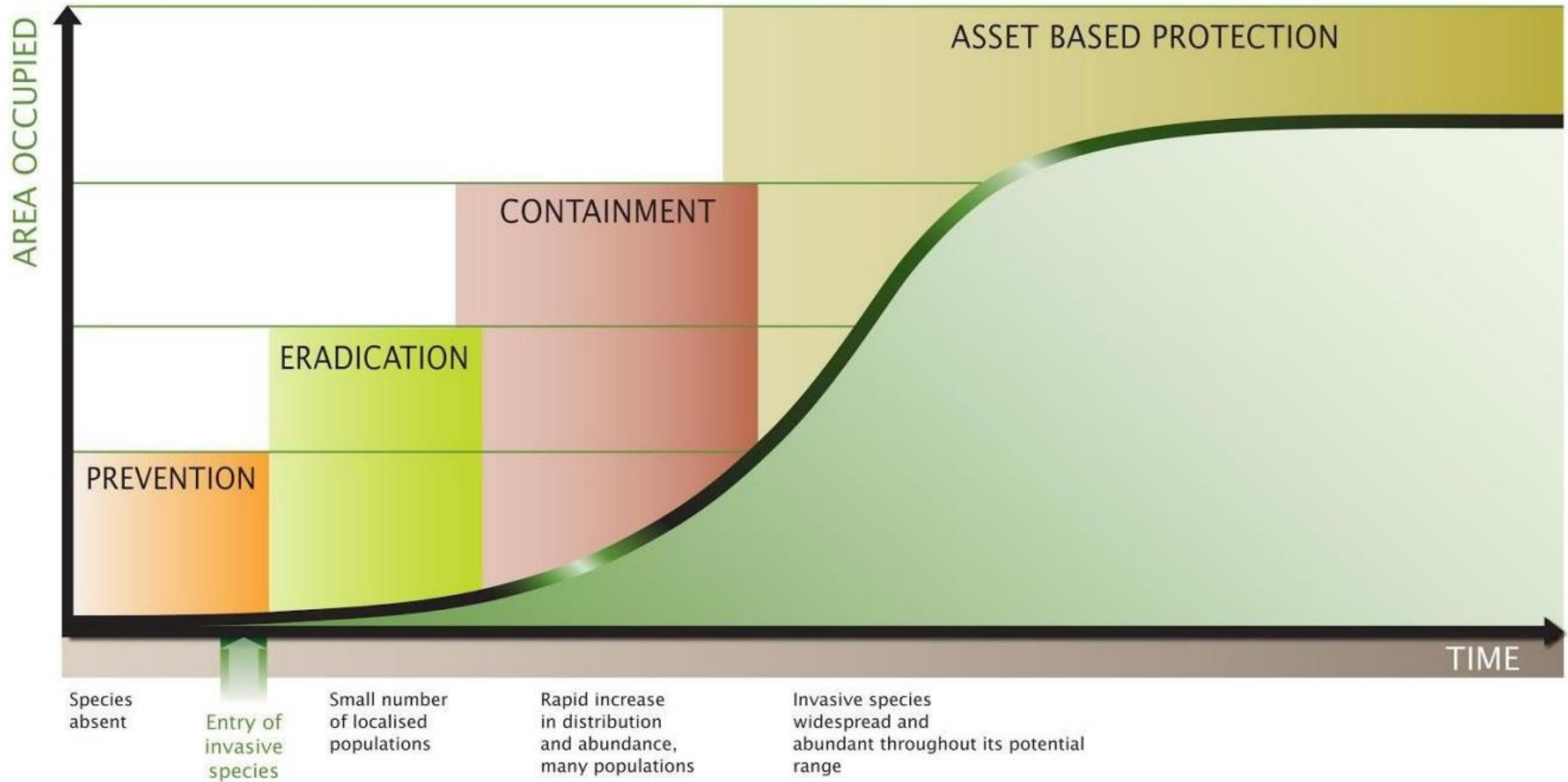
WATER ACCESS CLOSURE

All public access to enter the water from Broken Bridge to Twin Falls Hydroelectric Dam is prohibited.



: U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Idaho State Department of Agriculture

GENERALIZED INVASION CURVE SHOWING ACTIONS APPROPRIATE TO EACH STAGE



Washington Invasive Species Council. (2020). *Early Detection and Rapid Response Best Practices*.
<https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Early-Detection-and-Rapid-Response-Best-Practices-Report.pdf>



European Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*)

Prohibited Level 1 Invasive Species

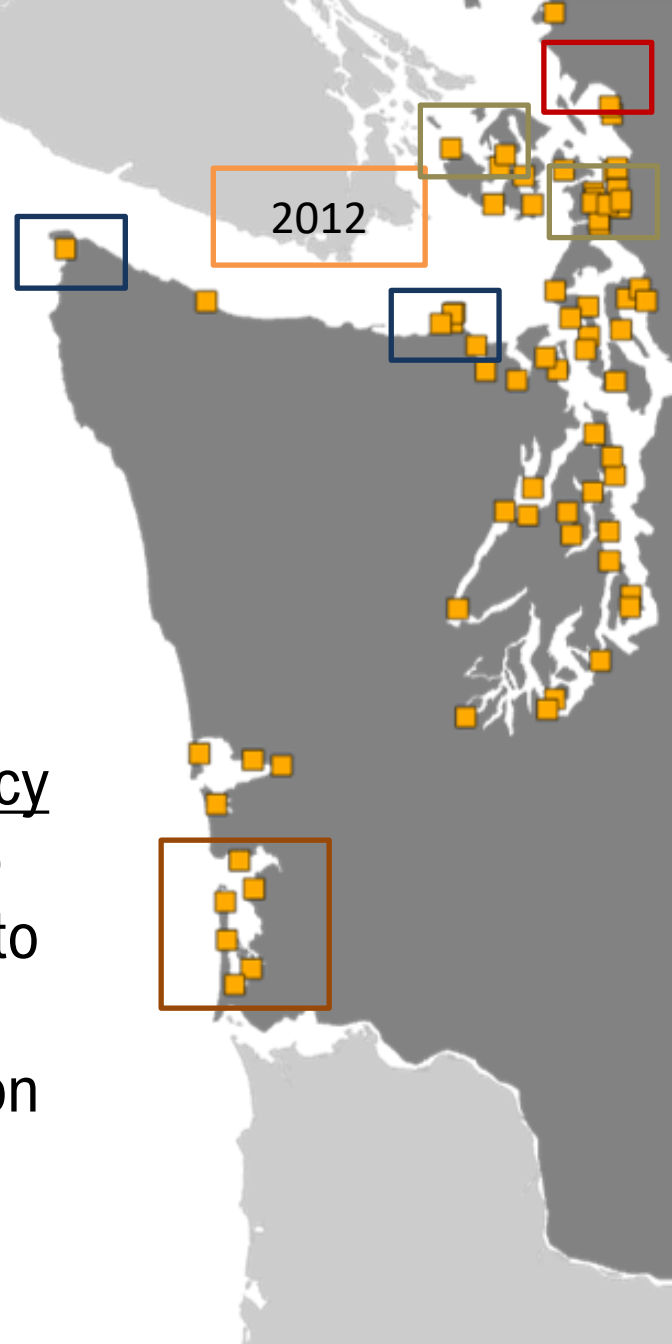
WAC 220.640.030

(1)(a) Species classified as prohibited level 1 pose the highest invasive risk and are a priority for prevention and expedited rapid response management actions.



European Green Crab Emergency Measures

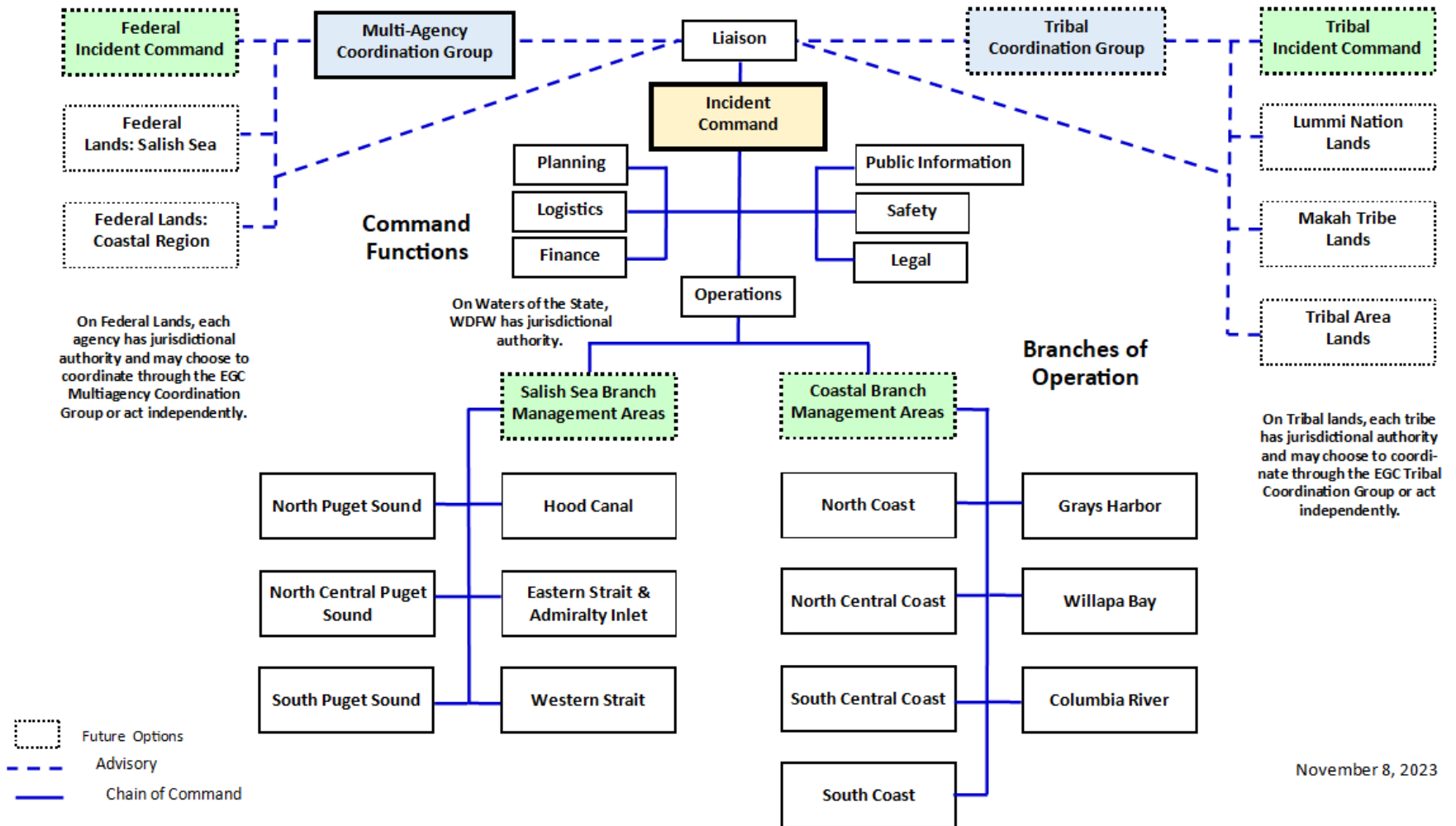
“I...do hereby order the Department of Fish and Wildlife to begin implementation of emergency measures as necessary to effect the eradication of or to prevent the permanent establishment and expansion of European green crab.”
- Governor Jay Inslee



Year	Total
1998	364
1999	507
2000	235
2001	142
2002	167
2003	24
2004	4
2005	115
2006-14	68
■ 2015	8
2016	24
2017	165
2018	1,192
2019	1,943
2020	6,829
2021	103,165
2022	285,280
2023*	286,368



Incident Command System (ICS) Structure



November 8, 2023



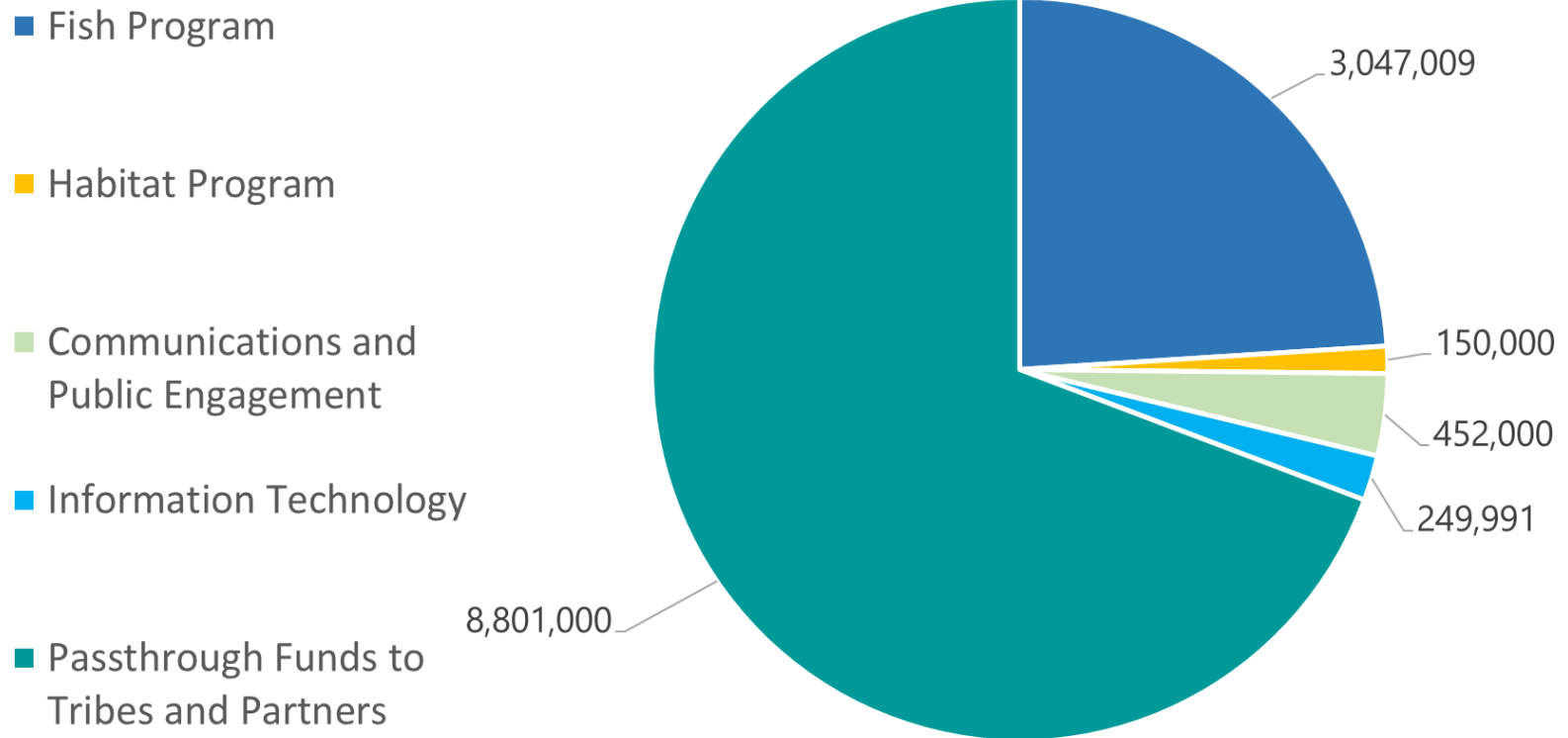
European Green Crab Emergency Measures

Branch	2021	2022	2023 *
Salish Sea Branch	86,310	80,902	6,112
Coastal Branch	16,855	205,319	280,256
Total	103,165	286,221	286,368

*Data through October 29, 2023



FY 2023-2025 European Green Crab (EGC) Emergency Measures Budget

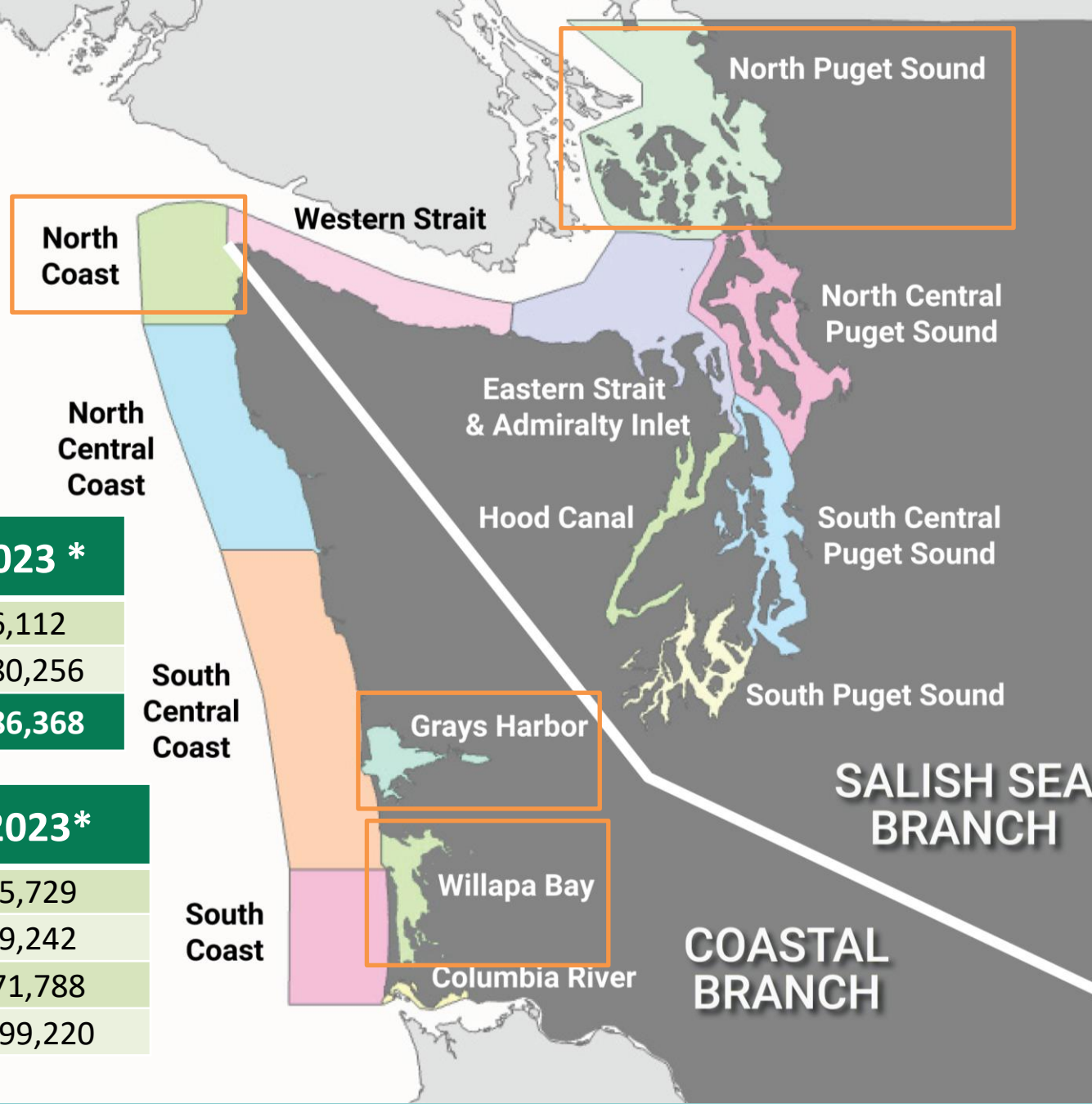


2023 Hotspots

*Data through October 29, 2023

Branch	2023 *
Salish Sea Branch	6,112
Coastal Branch	280,256
Total	286,368

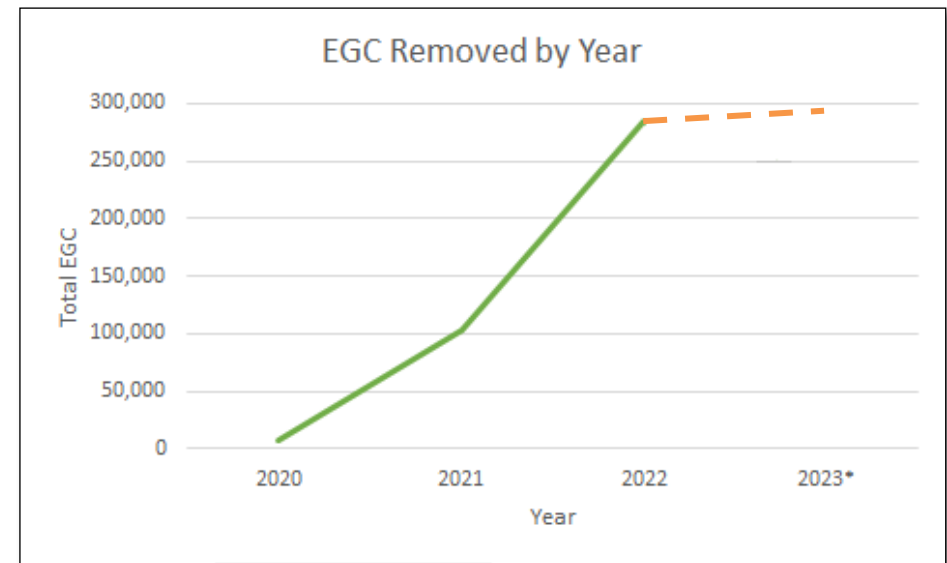
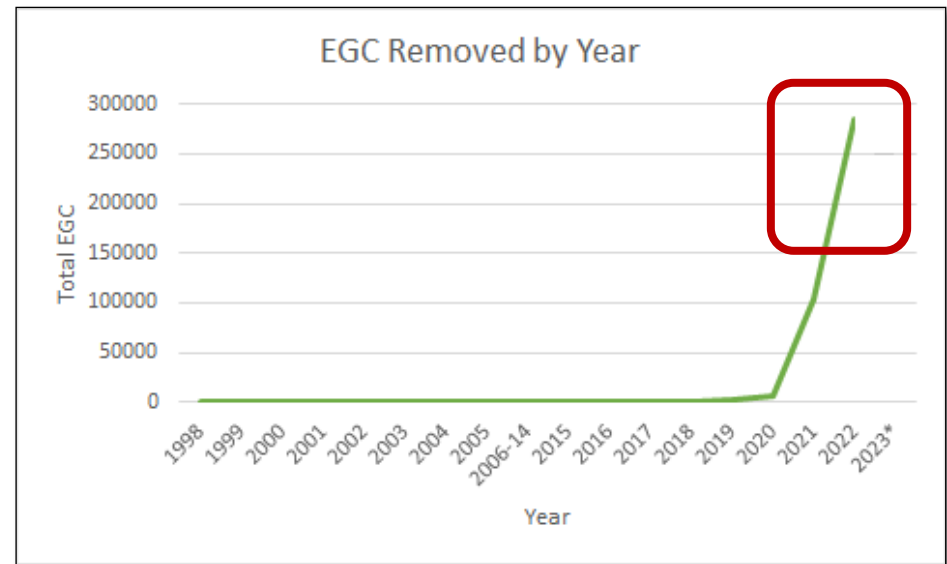
Management Area	2023*
North Puget Sound	5,729
North Coast	9,242
Grays Harbor	71,788
Willapa Bay	199,220



EGC Forecast and Future

5-Year Management Plan

- Started with September 2023 tribal engagement meeting.
- Progressed with initial one-on-one interviews with all fishery co-managers, tribes and partners (ongoing).
- Developing initial draft for December 2023 first review. Followed by a tribal engagement meeting.
- Further one-on-one and Management Area discussions.



Quagga Mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*) Prohibited Level 1 Invasive Species



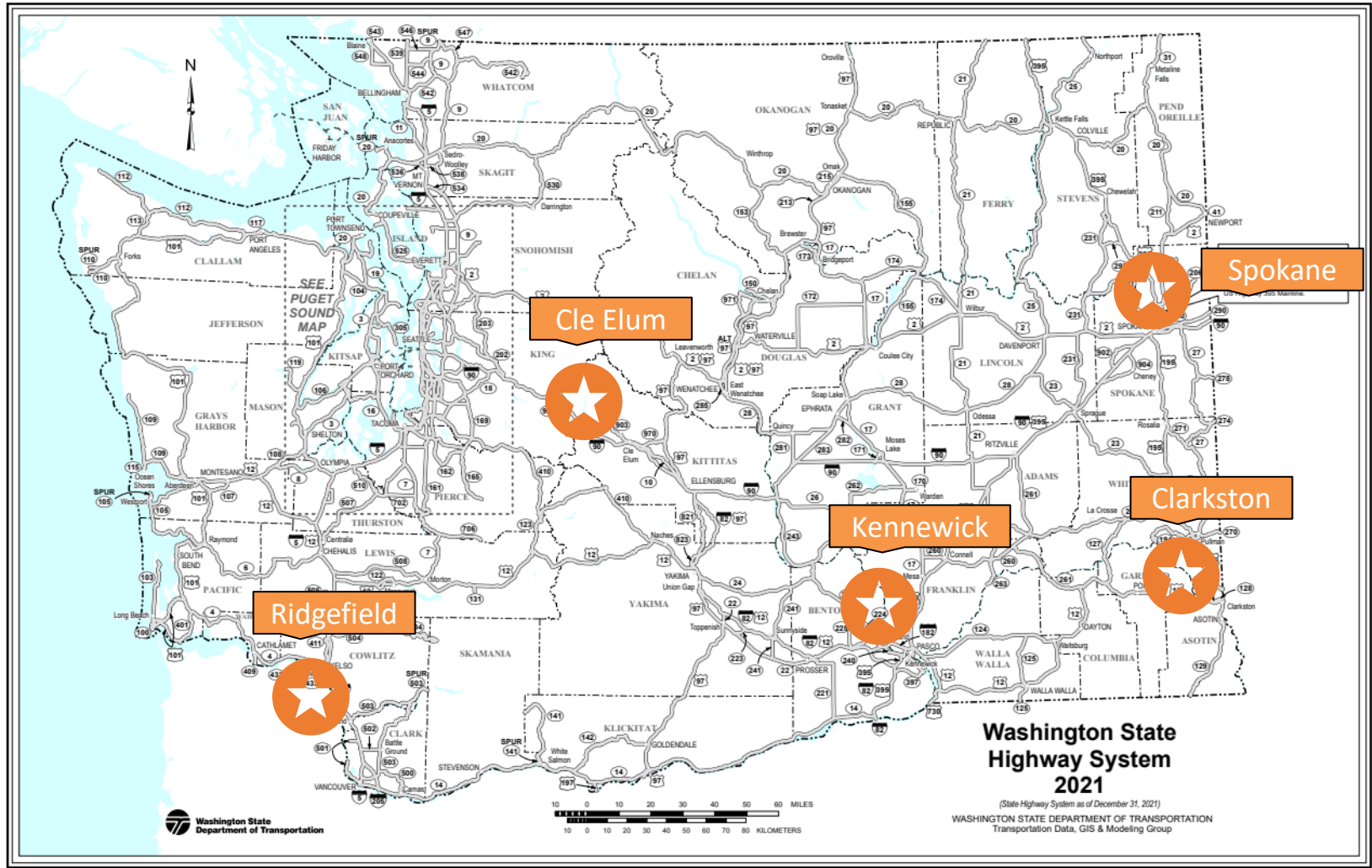
 U.S. Geological Survey





Prevention

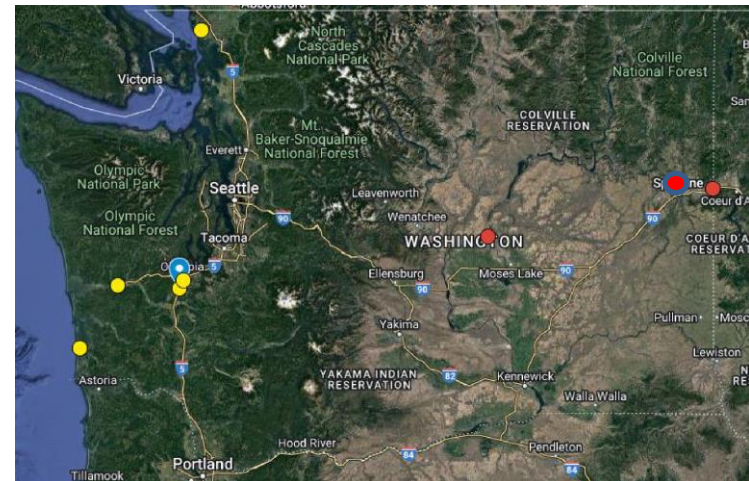
	2020	2021	2022
Operational Days	532	940	1,412
Watercraft Inspected	31,651	55,812	51,942
Mussel Fouled Watercraft	23	39	25



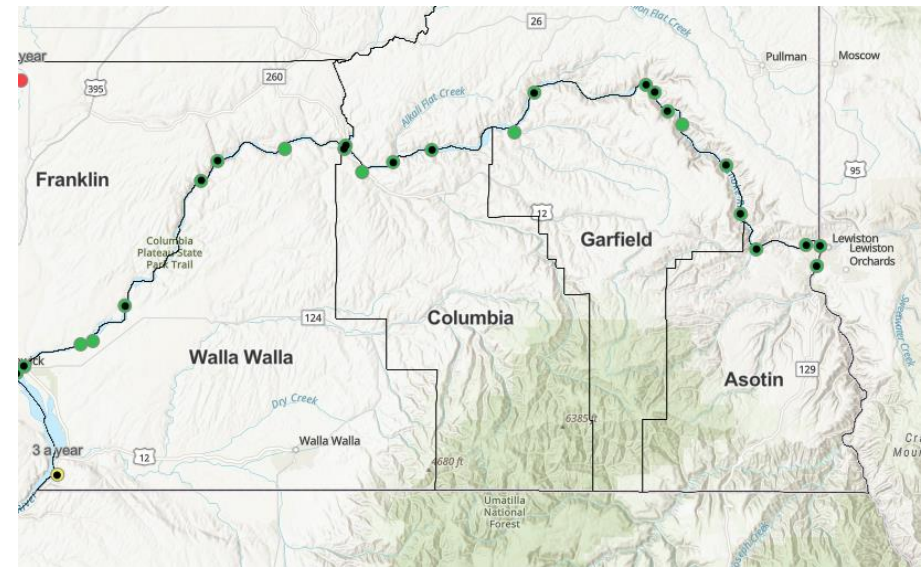
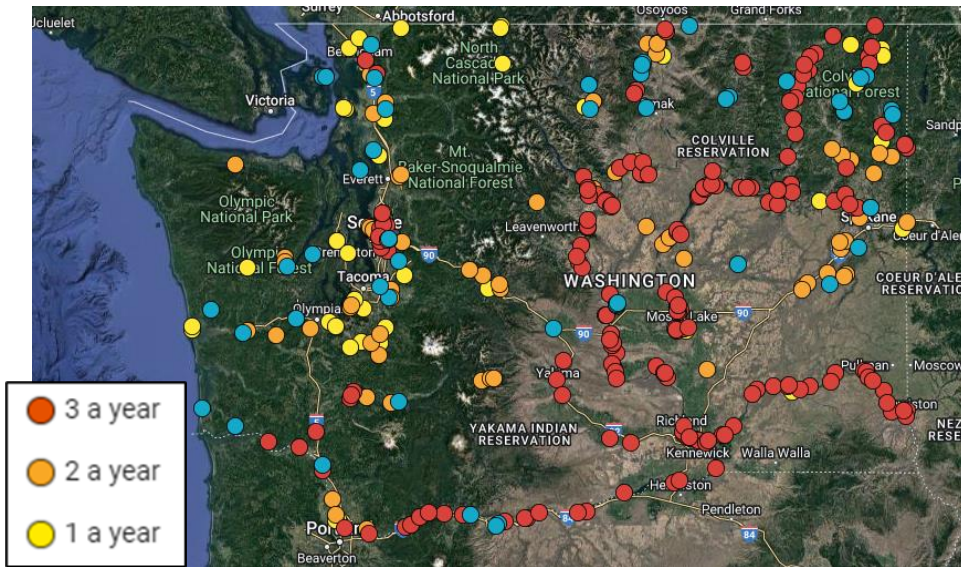
Decontamination



- Hand Pushed
- Station
- 📍 Trailered



Early Detection











Rapid Response



Rapid Response

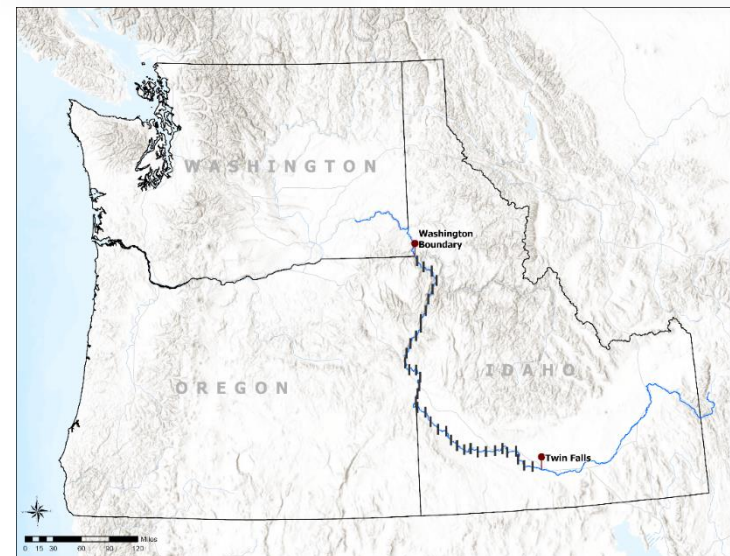
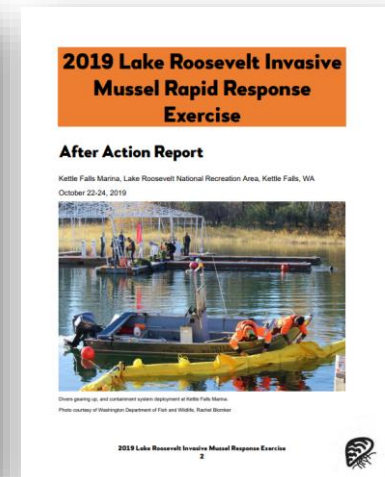
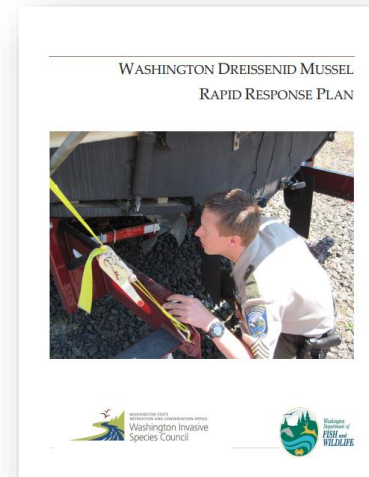


-  US Coast Guard Safety Zone
-  K-9 Surveys
-  Monitoring Sites
-  SCUBA Dive Team Survey
-  Watercraft and equipment decontamination
-  Containment boom curtain and mock treatment area
-  Mandatory Boat Inspections
-  Incident Command Post and Joint Information Center



Key Take-Aways

- Sept. 18, 2023, First Detection in Columbia River Basin
- 375 miles from Washington's waters
- > \$100 million economic risk, uncalculated environmental risk
- Seeking federal financial assistance
- Considering additional needs and actions





Questions?

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<https://wdfw.wa.gov/ais>

