



STATE OF WASHINGTON

September 23, 2024

The Hon. Patty Murray, Senator
The Hon. Suzan DelBene, Representative
The Hon. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, Representative
The Hon. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Representative
The Hon. Pramila Jayapal, Representative
The Hon. Adam Smith, Representative

The Hon. Maria Cantwell, Senator
The Hon. Rick Larsen, Representative
The Hon. Dan Newhouse, Representative
The Hon. Derek Kilmer, Representative
The Hon. Kim Schrier, Representative
The Hon. Marilyn Strickland, Representative

Dear Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation:

As Congress continues to work towards Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations, we are writing to express our support for the inclusion of European green crab (EGC) funding in a final funding package. This includes the following funds included in the Senate's FY25 Interior-Environment and Commerce, Science, and Justice appropriations legislation (S. 4802 and S. 4795):

- \$300,000 – Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge for EGC eradication efforts
- \$800,000 – U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Threats and Invasive Species Research Program for EGC research
- \$2,000,000 – Bureau of Indian Affairs' Agriculture and Rangeland Program to address invasive species, including EGC
- \$1,500,000 - National Marine Fisheries Service's Habitat Conservation and Restoration Program for management, intervention, and mitigation of invasive EGC

As you know, Washington state is working aggressively to battle a rapidly increasing invasion of non-native EGC. European green crab are a globally damaging invasive species that are able to survive in a wide range of water temperatures and salinities and have become established in many temperate coastal zones in areas around the world. If they become permanently established in the coastal waters of Washington state, it is likely that European green crabs will harm endangered species and impact resources that are part of the cultural identity of Northwest Federally Recognized Tribes and Native peoples and affect small businesses and low-income communities. These green crabs will become predators to shellfish and juvenile Dungeness crab, destroy critical habitat such as eelgrass beds and estuarine marshes, disrupt natural food webs, harm overall crab populations, hinder salmon and Southern Resident killer whale recovery efforts, reduce shorebird food supplies, and ultimately affect the overall health and resiliency of the Salish Sea.

Acknowledging the EGC infestation poses an imminent danger to Washington state, the state legislature committed ongoing funding to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to help implement EGC eradication and control measures through coordination and grants with

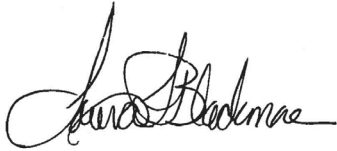
partner organizations. We also appreciate that the federal agencies were able to provide some funding. Unfortunately, these funding levels are insufficient to address the growing infestation, as evidenced by the state providing funding to support Tribes, Washington Sea Grant, and Federal agencies to conduct research and protect national wildlife refuges.

Strong, dedicated federal funding for EGC prevention, eradication, and control will provide significant help to partners across Washington state to address this threat to our marine ecosystems. As Congress works to complete the FY25 appropriations process, we urge you to support the Senate's language in any final omnibus legislation. Thank you again for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Laura Blackmore
Director, Puget Sound Partnership



Megan Duffy
Director
Recreation and Conservation Office



Katie Rose Allen
Acting Deputy Supervisor – Forest Resilience, Regulation and Aquatic Resources
Office of the Commissioner of Public Lands
Washington Department of Natural Resources



Andrea S. Thorpe, Ph.D.
Natural Resources Program Manager
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission



Blain Reeves
Chair of the Washington Invasive Species Council.



Tandy Wilbur
Fisheries Manager
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community



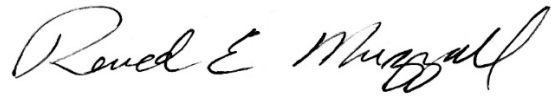
Representative Tom Dent
13th Legislative District – Position 1



Representative Mike Chapman
Chair of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
24th Legislative District



Representative Andrew Barkis
2nd Legislative District



Senator Ron Muzzall
10th Legislative District



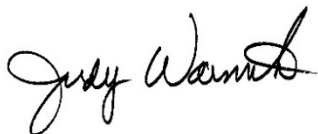
Representative Shelley Kloba
1st Legislative District



Senator Derek Sandison
1st Legislative District



Representative Ed Orcutt
20th Legislative District



Senator Judy Warnick
13th Legislative District



Senator Jesse Salomon
Vice Chair of the Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks Committee
32nd Legislative District



David Beugli
Executive Director
Willapa Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association



Margaret A. Pilaro, Executive Director
Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association



Kate Litle
Deputy Director
Washington Sea Grant