



## STATE OF WASHINGTON

May 6, 2025

The Hon. Patty Murray, Senator  
The Hon. Suzan DelBene, Representative  
The Hon. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, Representative  
The Hon. Michael Baumgartner, Representative  
The Hon. Pramila Jayapal, Representative  
The Hon. Adam Smith, Representative  
United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Maria Cantwell, Senator  
The Hon. Rick Larsen, Representative  
The Hon. Dan Newhouse, Representative  
The Hon. Emily Randall, Representative  
The Hon. Kim Schrier, Representative  
The Hon. Marilyn Strickland, Representative  
United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation:

We are writing to you to respectfully request substantial federal investments and actions by federal agencies to help our state address the ongoing economic, cultural, and environmental threats posed by invasive European green crabs. We appreciate your efforts to secure funding over the last two years and ask that you continue these endeavors for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

The European green crab is a globally damaging species that can survive in a wide range of water temperatures and salinities and has become established in many temperate coastal zones in areas around the world. If able to become permanently established in the marine waters of Washington state, it is likely that European green crabs will harm endangered species, impact resources that are part of the cultural identity of the tribes and native peoples, and affect small businesses in rural and low-income communities. This species is a predator that preys upon native shellfish including juvenile Dungeness crab, destroying eelgrass beds, estuarine marshes, and other critically important habitat for juvenile salmon and other valuable species. These impacts disrupt natural food webs, reduce overall native crab populations, hinder salmon and Southern Resident killer whale recovery efforts, reduce food for shorebirds, and ultimately affect the overall health and resiliency of the Washington's coast and the Salish Sea.

In recognition of the threats posed by the European green crab, the state is operating under Emergency Proclamation 22-02 citing that the European green crab infestation poses an imminent danger to Washington State's marine environment, marine-based economy, and the cultural well-being of both tribal and non-tribal residents. This emergency orders the state Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to implement emergency measures to affect the eradication to prevent the permanent establishment of this very serious threat. The state legislature supported the need for action by committing ongoing funding to

the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to help implement eradication and control measures through coordination and grants with tribes and partner organizations.

We greatly appreciate the continued technical and funding support from regional National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). However, we recognize that federal funding levels are insufficient to address the scope of this emergency as evidenced by a state 2021-2026 management plan developed collaboratively with over 40 organizations, including state agencies, federally recognized tribes, federal agencies, Washington Sea Grant, and local governments. Research, control and eradication are paramount to protecting state, tribal, federal, and private land; particularly those which are designated as high value wildlife areas like state parks, sanctuaries, national wildlife refuges and tribal reservations are of paramount concern.

Therefore, we respectfully request that Congress take action and provide financial support to address the emergency and destructive potential of European green crab by implementing the following requests as outlined in the [European Green Crab 2025-2031 Management Plan for Washington](#):

- 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 \$8 million to the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Invasive Species Program for its Northwest Region to address invasive species, including European green crab, as supported in the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians' [Resolution# 2025 – 08 “Invasive Species Funding in the Pacific Northwest”](#).
- Appropriate \$5 million in fiscal year 2025 and future years to the Coastal Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Grant Program as authorized under the Frank LoBiondo Vessel Incidental Discharge Act of 2018.
- Appropriate \$3 million to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for an annual grant program to implement the National European Green Crab Management Plan, using the successful model of the Service's Quagga and Zebra Mussel Action Plan for the Western United States grant program.
- Appropriate \$800,000 to U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Threats and Invasive Species Research Program for its Western and Alaska Science Centers for European green crab research.
- Appropriate \$300,000 to Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge for European green crab eradication efforts.
- Provide robust funding to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for Washington's coastal shellfish growers.
- Provide direction to the national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to establish a European Green Crab national implementation team, for the purpose of ensuring the task force implement the 2024 approved National European Green Crab Management plan.
- Provide direction to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support the Lummi Nation in determining actions and costs to address and improve the Lummi Sea Pond. These investments are crucial to preventing EGC from spreading into unaffected areas of the Salish Sea. In addition, the Lummi Sea Pond dike wall road is part of the evacuation route that provides safe egress for the Lummi Nation community and public during an emergency such as a tsunami.

Again, thank you for your consideration of our request.

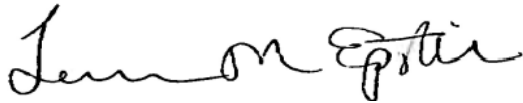
Sincerely,



Kelly Susewind, Director  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Kate Litle  
Deputy Director Washington Sea Grant



Larry Epstein  
Deputy Director Puget Sound Partnership



Todd Murray, Chair  
Washington Invasive Species Council



Steven Burke, Manager  
King County Noxious Weed Control Program



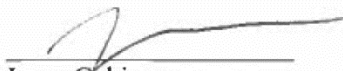
Merle Jefferson Sr.  
Director, Lummi Natural Resources  
Lummi Indian Business Council



W. Ron Allen  
Tribal Chairman and CEO  
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe



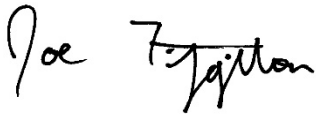
Tom Wooten, Chairman  
Samish Indian Nation



Jason Gobin  
Executive Director of Natural & Cultural Resources  
The Tulalip Tribes of Washington



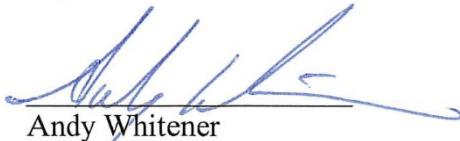
Katie Rose Allen  
Acting Deputy Supervisor, Forest Resilience,  
Regulation and Aquatic Resources, Washington  
Department of Natural Resources



House Majority Leader  
Representative Joe Fitzgibbon  
Washington State House of Representatives



Senator Jesse Salomon  
32<sup>nd</sup> legislative district  
Washington State Senate



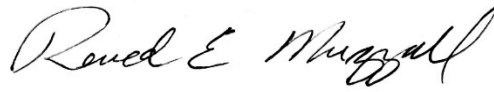
Andy Whitener  
Director of Natural Resources  
Squaxin Island Tribe



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



Casey D. Sixiller, Director  
Washington State Department of Ecology



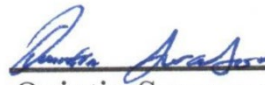
Senator Ron Muzzall  
10<sup>th</sup> legislative district  
Washington State Senate



David Beugli, Executive Director  
Willapa-Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association



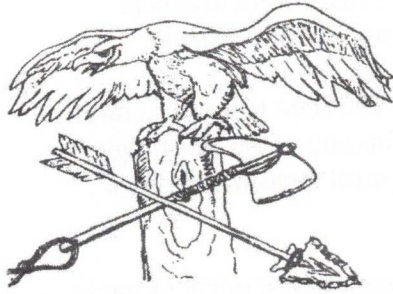
Megan Duffy, Director  
Washington Recreation and Conservation Office



Quintin Swanson, Chairman  
Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe



Derek I. Sandison  
Director  
Washington Department of Agriculture



## SHOALWATER BAY INDIAN TRIBE

P.O. Box 130 • Tokeland, Washington 98590  
Telephone (360) 267-6766 • FAX (360) 267-6778

April 18, 2025

The Hon. Patty Murray, Senator  
The Hon. Suzan DelBene, Representative  
The Hon. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, Representative  
The Hon. Michael Baumgartner, Representative  
The Hon. Pramila Jayapal, Representative  
The Hon. Adam Smith, Representative  
United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Maria Cantwell, Senator  
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The Hon. Dan Newhouse, Representative  
The Hon. Emily Randall, Representative  
The Hon. Kim Schrier, Representative  
The Hon. Marilyn Strickland, Representative  
United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation:

We, the Shoalwater Bay Tribal Council, are writing to you to respectfully request substantial federal investments to help our Tribe continue to battle a rapidly increasing invasion of non-native European green crab. We appreciate your efforts to secure funding in the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 appropriations bill and ask that you continue these endeavors for FFY 2026. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Since 2020 the Shoalwater Bay Tribe's Natural Resource Department has removed 260,875 European green crab from lands of the Tribe within Willapa Bay. The European green crab is a globally damaging species that can survive in a wide range of water temperatures and salinities and has become established in many temperate coastal zones in areas around the world. If they become permanently established in the coastal waters of Washington state, especially Willapa Bay where the Shoalwater Reservation is located, it is likely that European green crabs will harm endangered species and impact resources that are part of the cultural identity of Shoalwater Bay Tribal members and affect Tribal and local businesses that are the backbone of our small coastal communities within Willapa Bay. These green crabs are 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 recovery, reduce shorebird food supplies, and ultimately affect the overall ecological health and resiliency of Willapa Bay.

In recognition of the threats posed by the European green crab, the Shoalwater Bay Tribal Council signed an Emergency Declaration on January 6, 2022, in response to the alarming increase in population of green crab that was being removed from Willapa Bay. Washington State Governor



Jay Inslee on January 19, 2022, issued Emergency Proclamation 22-02 citing that the European green crab infestation poses an imminent danger to Washington State's marine environment, marine-based economy, and the cultural well-being of both tribal and non-tribal residents.

This emergency order is continued by Governor Bob Ferguson today. The state legislature further acknowledged the threat and need for action by committing ongoing funding to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to help implement eradication and control measures through coordination and grants with tribes and partner organizations.

We greatly appreciate the continued technical and funding support of regional National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff. However, we recognize that federal funding levels are insufficient to address the scope of this emergency as evidenced by a state 2021-2026 management plan developed collaboratively with over 40 organizations, including state agencies, federally recognized tribes, federal agencies, Washington Sea Grant, and local governments. Research, control and eradication is paramount to protecting state, tribal, federal, and private land; particularly those which are designated as high value wildlife areas like state parks, sanctuaries, national wildlife refuges and tribal reservations

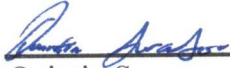
Therefore, we respectfully request that Congress take action and provide financial support to address the emergency and destructive potential of European green crab by implementing the following requests as outlined in the European Green Crab 2025-2031 Management Plan for Washington:

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- Appropriate \$800,000 to U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Threats and Invasive Species Research Program for its Western and Alaska Science Centers for EGC research.
- Appropriate \$300,000 to Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge for EGC eradication efforts.
- Provide robust funding to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for Washington's coastal shellfish growers.
- Provide direction to the national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to establish a European Green Crab national implementation team, for the purpose of ensuing the task force implement the 2024 approved National European Green Crab Management plan.

- Provide direction to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support the Lummi Nation in determining actions and costs to address and improve the Lummi Sea Pond. These investments are crucial to preventing EGC from spreading into unaffected areas of the Salish Sea. In addition, the Lummi Sea Pond dike wall road is part of the evacuation route that provides safe egress for the Lummi Nation community and public during an emergency such as a tsunami.

Again, thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



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Quintin Swanson, Chairman  
Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe