

European Green Crab (EGC) Emergency Measures Update

**Columbia River Basin Team
Meeting
June 6, 2023**

**Allen Pleus
EGC Incident Commander
WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife**



Incident Objectives

Washington State European Green Crab Emergency Response



Facilitate WDFW implementing Governor's Emergency Proclamation and state legislative funding directives...



Health and safety of all participants.



Reduce or contain EGC populations below levels that result in environmental, economic, and cultural resource harm.



Collaborative and transparent emergency management.



Post-emergency transition to long-term EGC management by local tribal co-managers and partners with WDFW oversight.



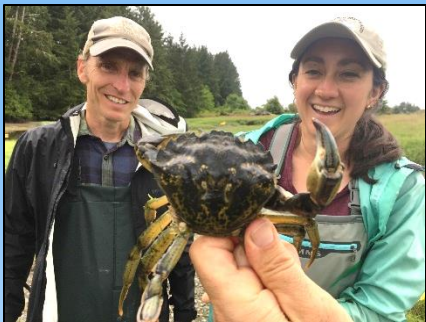
Successes

- ✓ 2021-22: Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, and Shoalwater Bay Tribe issued EGC disaster/emergency declarations
- ✓ Jan 2022: Governor Inslee issued EGC Emergency Proclamation 22-02
- ✓ 2021-22: WA Legislators allocated additional >\$8.5 million in emergency measures funding - >\$8 million combined per year ongoing
- ✓ April 2022: Incident Command Structure implementation
- ✓ 2022: Quick planning/logistics/operations ramp up and capture of significant EGC numbers statewide



Successes (cont.)

- ✓ Ongoing policy & technical collaboration with tribal co-managers and partner organizations
- ✓ No major health and safety issues
- ✓ Ongoing transparency in public communications and outreach efforts
- ✓ Ongoing implementation of the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) EGC Emergency Measures Strategic Action Plan
- ✓ Continued trapping for EGC over the winter months (at a reduced level and boat-based) – ramping up for 2023 summer trapping season



Cooperative Management Strategy

- **Multiple jurisdictions**
 - State, tribal, federal, local gov't, private
- **Management priorities**
 - Health & safety, EGC reduction, long-term cooperative management plan
- **Management types**
 - Prevention, early detection, rapid response, prospecting, assessment, control
- **Operational complexities**
 - Planning, logistics, finance, public information, legal, liaisons
- **Resource capacities**
 - Staffing, equipment, supplies, funding
- **Sensitive habitats and species protection**
 - Threatened and endangered species, natural area preserves, wildlife refuges
- **Aquaculture operations**



Policy: Multi-Agency Coordination Group

State Agencies	Tribes & Federal Agencies	NGOs & Private
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	Salish Sea Tribe: Lummi Nation	WA Sea Grant
Dept of Natural Resources	Coastal Tribe: Shoalwater Bay Tribe	Coastal Aquaculture
Dept of Ecology	Coastal Tribe: Makah Tribe	Salish Sea Aquaculture
Dept of Agriculture	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin	WA State University
State Parks	US Fish & Wildlife	
Emergency Management Division	US Geologic Survey	
Puget Sound Partnership	US Environmental Protection Agency	
Recreation & Conservation Office	Bureau of Indian Affairs	

Major Tasks:

- **Recommend Incident Objectives**
- **Review and recommend proposals for EGC EM funding**
- **Implement FY23 Strategic Action Plan**
- **Develop FY24 Strategic Action Plan**
- **Development of a Five-Year Cooperative Integrated Management Plan**
- **Determine when emergency measures end**

MAC Group Coordinator: Jessica La Belle (Recreation and Conservation Office)



EGC Captures: > 440,650

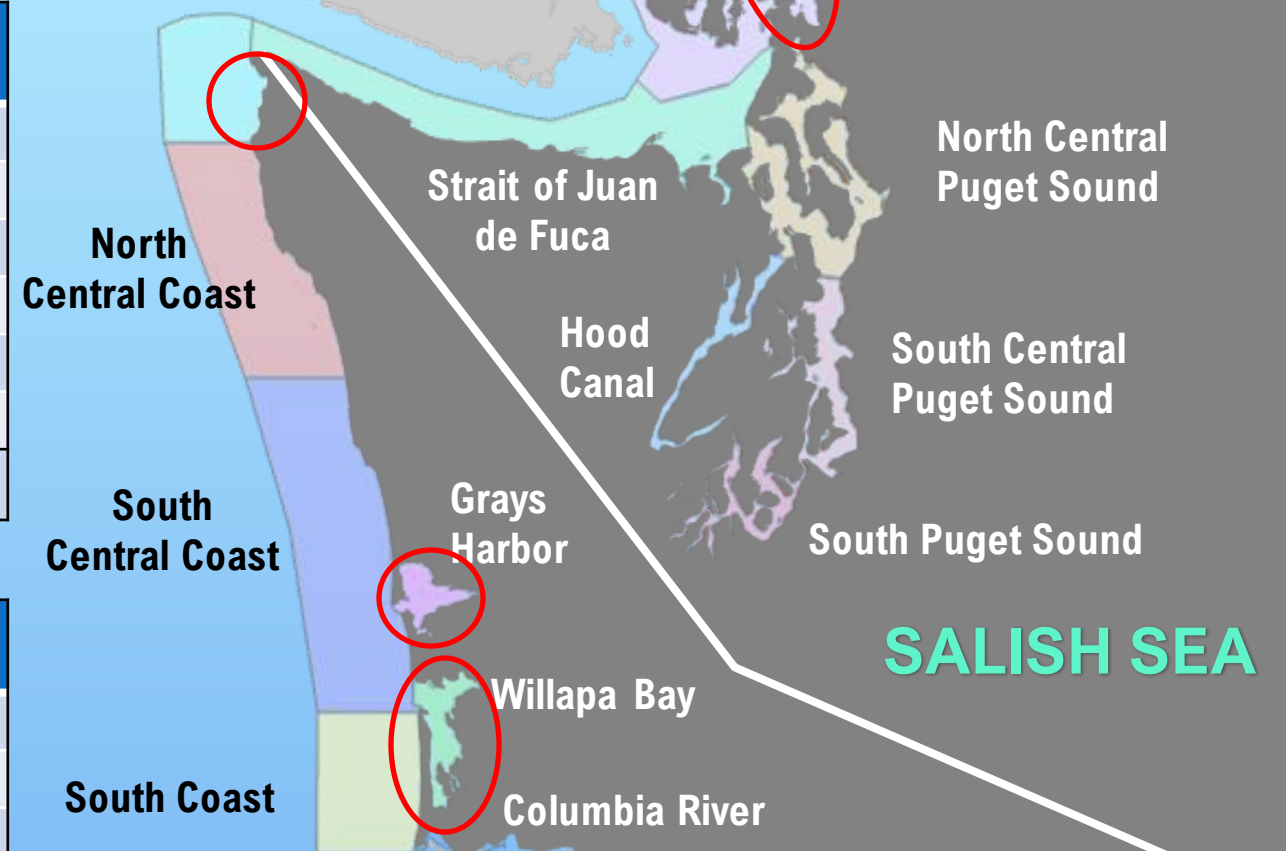
Salish Sea Branch

Management Area	2021	2022	2023*
North Puget Sound	86,310	80,902	2,226
North Central PS	2	0	0
South Central PS	0	0	0
South Puget Sound	0	0	0
Strait of Juan de Fuca	28	93	36
Hood Canal	0	18	4
Total	86,340	81,013	2,266

Coastal Branch

Management Area	2021	2022	2023*
North Coast	1,460	26,160	1,715
North Central Coast	0	0	0
South Central Coast	1	34	4
South Coast	0	0	0
Grays Harbor	4,434	24,258	26,567
Willapa Bay	10,926	154,862	20,630
Columbia River	4	5	0
Total	16,825	205,319	48,916

North Coast



Year	EGC
2021	103,165
2022	286,332
2023*	51,182

COASTAL

* As of May 14, 2023



Next Steps

- Continuation of emergency measures under Governor's proclamation
- Development and implementation of the FY24 EGC Strategic Action Plan including:
 - Planning of 2024 priority operational areas and actions
 - Scientific Task Force to continue analysis of EGC monitoring and control data and to guide future research activities
 - Completion of quarterly reports to state legislature
 - Continue development and implementation of online reporting tool for EGC data management



Next Steps (cont.)

- Implementation of the FY24 EGC Strategic Action Plan including:
 - Spend down remaining FY23 Coastal and IAA grant funds
 - Develop and implement contract totaling \$8.7 million in 2023-25 state biennium emergency management funding
 - Advocacy for long-term Pacific region federal funding

Rep. Kilmer visit to Nick's Lagoon: Sep 1, 2022



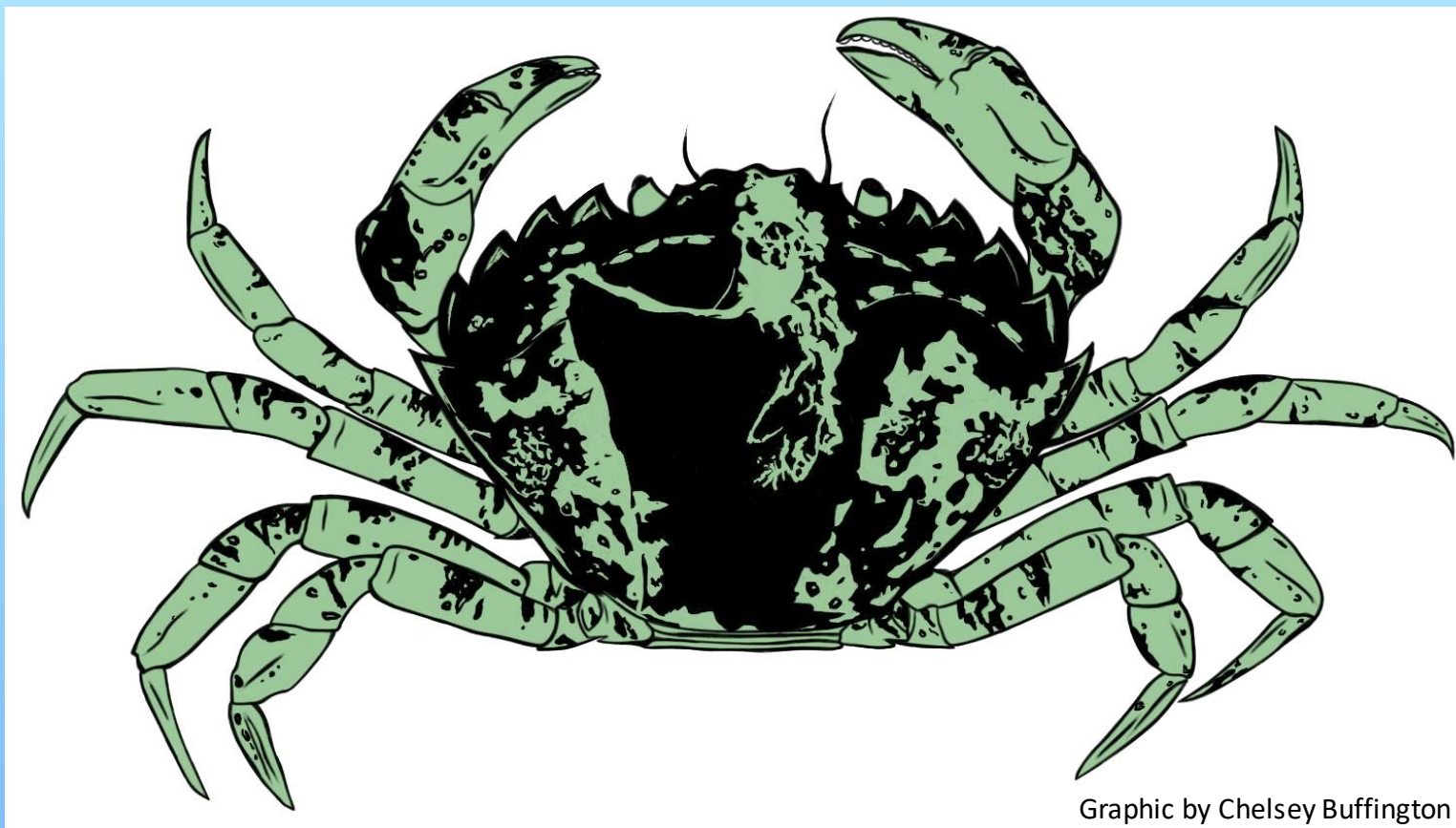
Sen. Cantwell visit to Lummi Sea Pond: Oct 11, 2022



EGC Trapper's Summit:
Jan 24, 2023



Thank you!



Graphic by Chelsey Buffington

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