



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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January 19, 2022

Honorable Christine Rolfes
Honorable Lynda Wilson
Senate Ways and Means Committee

Honorable Timm Ormsby
Honorable Drew Stokesbary
House Appropriations Committee

Dear Senators Rolfes and Wilson and Representatives Ormsby and Stokesbary:

On December 14, 2021, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), as required by RCW 77.135.090, asked Governor Inslee to order emergency measures for the control and eradication of European green crab. The request is based on an exponential increase in European green crab populations within the Lummi Sea Pond and outer coast area including Makah Bay, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay.

Today, pursuant to RCW 43.06.010(14), the governor issued Proclamation 22-02, Green Crab Infestation. It directs WDFW and the Department of Ecology, and asks other state agencies, to take immediate action to control European green crab populations in the state.

Working with the Lummi Nation and Washington Sea Grant, WDFW has requested \$8.900 million General Fund-State to effectively control European green crab this biennium. This includes \$1.296 million to implement highest priority emergency management actions in fiscal year 2022, including immediate population control actions at the Lummi Sea Pond, and \$7.600 million in fiscal year 2023 to continue emergency management actions for the remainder of the biennium. Of the amounts requested, \$4.592 million would pass through to the Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, and other partners, and \$4.313 million would be used by WDFW.

This funding is critical to avoiding devastating impacts to native shellfish and juvenile crab, as well as the destruction of critical habitat such as eelgrass beds and estuary marshes. Statewide, these ecological impacts could significantly impact juvenile dungeness crab populations, salmon recovery, Southern Resident killer whale recovery, shorebird food supply, and ultimately, the overall health and resiliency of Puget Sound. In addition, this work will help maintain tribal treaty rights and the health of small businesses and rural communities.

I ask that you provide funding in the 2022 supplemental operating budget to control this devastating invasive species. Attached is a copy of the governor's proclamation, WDFW's request, and letters of support from the Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe and Washington Sea Grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Schumacher
Director

Enclosures

cc: Honorable Kevin Van De Wege
Honorable Judy Warnick
Honorable Mike Chapman
Honorable Bruce Chandler
Charlie Gavigan, Staff Coordinator, House Appropriations Committee
Susan Howson, Staff Coordinator, Senate Ways & Means Committee
Kelly Susewind, Director, Department of Fish & Wildlife
Laura Watson, Director, Department of Ecology
William Jones, Jr., Chairman, Lummi Indian Business Council
Timothy J. Greene, Sr., Chairman, Makah Tribal Council
Nona Snell, Assistant Director for Budget, OFM
Jim Cahill, Senior Budget Assistant, OFM