

SKOKOMISH WATERSHED ACTION TEAM

Community Meeting

June 25, 2025

5:00 - 7:00



Community Meeting

June 25, 2025, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

European Green Crab in Hood Canal

Natalie Otto, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The European Green Crab in Washington



Natalie Otto
Salish Sea Regional Biologist
natalie.otto@dfw.wa.gov





WDFW's Aquatic Invasive Species Division



To protect Washington's environmental, economic, and human resources, the WDFW is the state lead for preventing the introduction of new, controlling the spread of existing, and eradicating locally established aquatic invasive animal species.

The AIS Unit is charged with planning, coordinating, and leading the implementation of management actions on state lands.

Collaboration ● Prevention ● Early Detection ● Rapid Response ● Control ● Research







5 spines on each side





5 spines on each side

4 inches or less across





5 spines on each side

4 inches or less across

3 bumps between the eyes





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3 bumps between the eyes

2 semi-flat rear legs





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1 inaccurate name, they aren't always green





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4 inches or less across

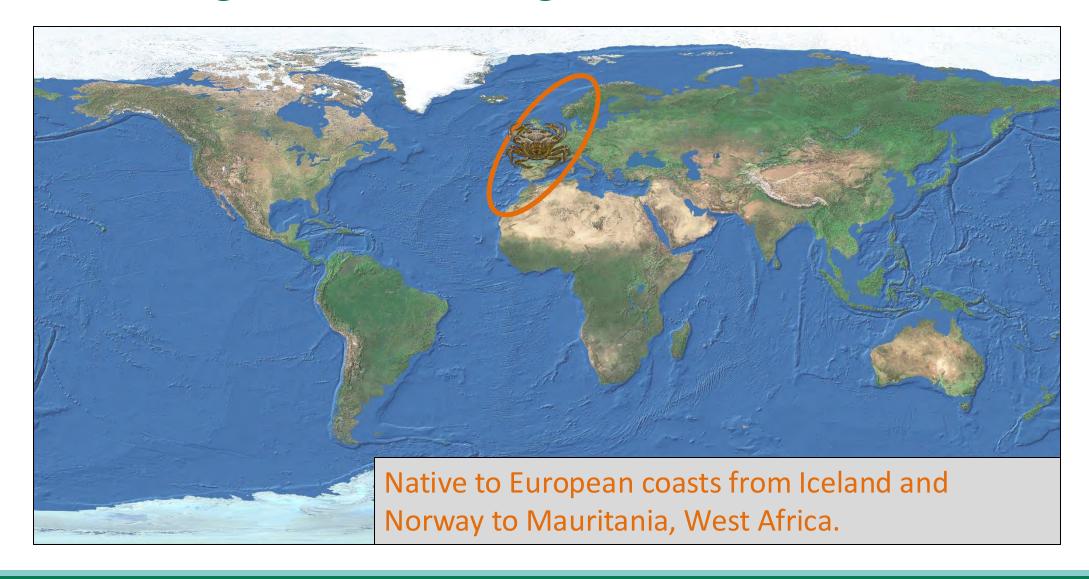
3 bumps between the eyes

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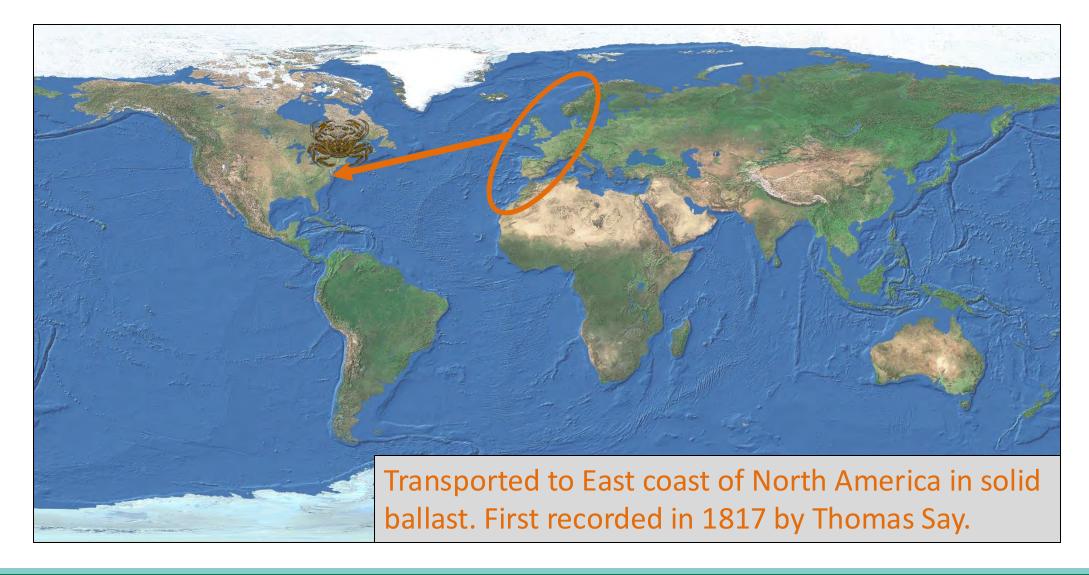
1 inaccurate name, they aren't always green



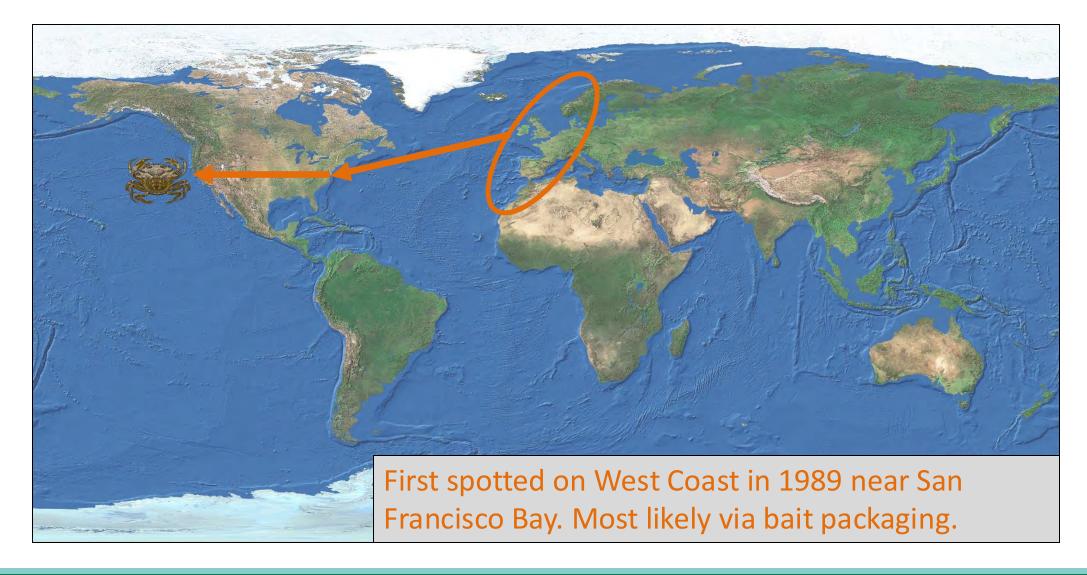




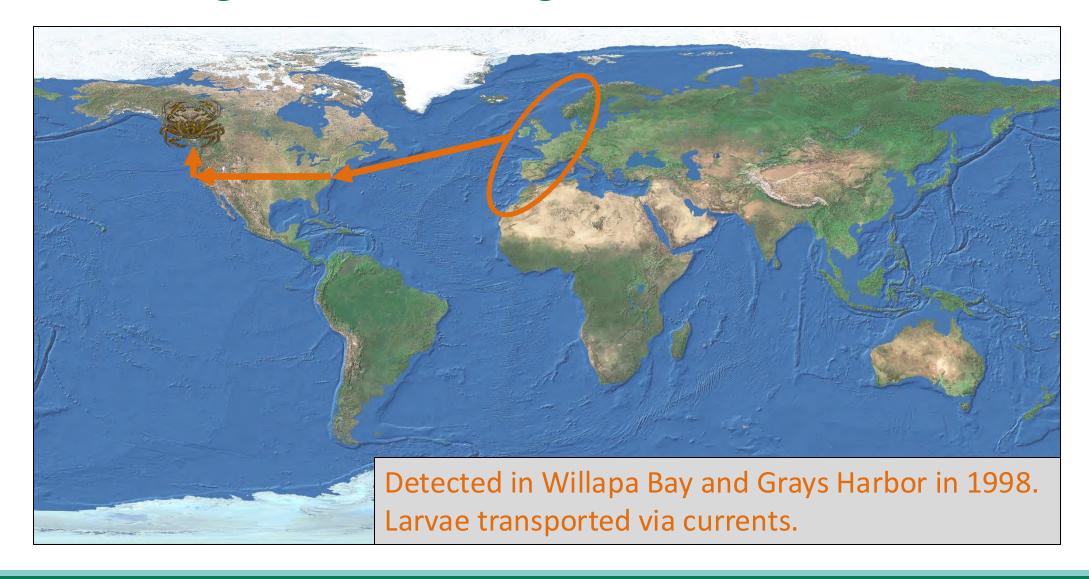






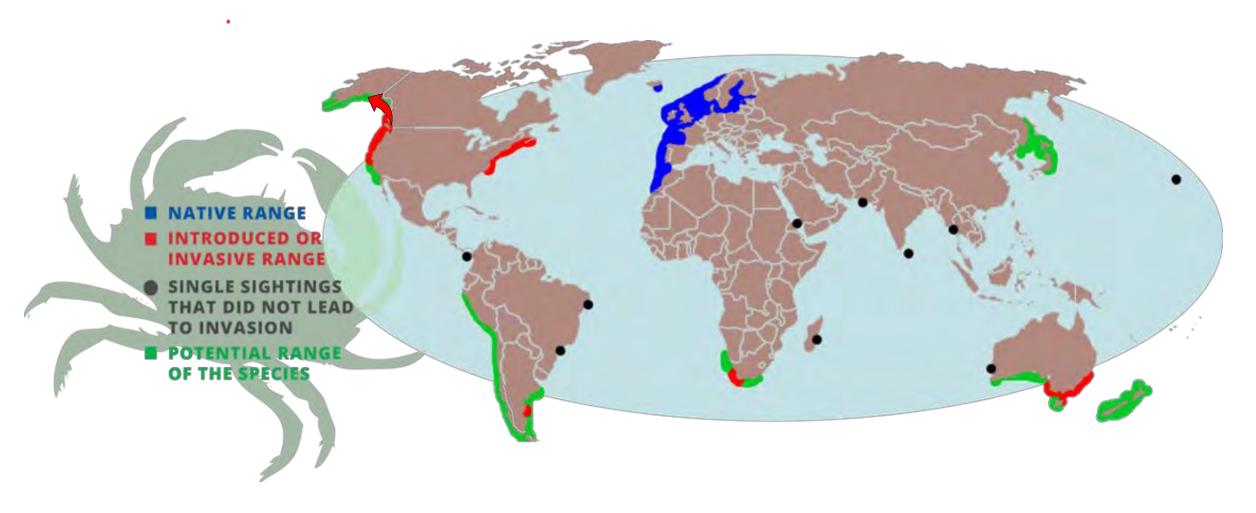








Where are green crabs now?





Preferred "Crabitat"?

Relatively fresh and warm Intertidal, low flow Protected structures

- vertical banks
- vegetation
- hard debris

Pocket estuaries

- lagoons
- salt marshes







Keep in mind: green crabs have wide tolerances and can be found in areas you wouldn't expect to see them!







Why do we care?

Wide range of tolerances

- Salinity: 1.4-54 ppt (Dungeness are 11-35)
- Thermal: 32-95 °F (Dungeness are 37-64°F)

Highly diverse diet

Outcompete native species

Eelgrass impacts

Lots and lots of babies

- ~180,000 per clutch
- More than one clutch a year if warm enough







EGC in Washington

1998 – Coastal detection – Willapa Bay/Grays Harbor

2012 – Sooke Basin detection in British Columbia

2015 – WDFW designates Washington Sea Grant to lead early detection monitoring

2016 – Salish Sea detection – San Juan/Padilla Bay

2017 – Makah Bay/Dungeness Spit detections

2018 – Increasing Salish Sea and coastal EGC detections

2020 – Legislature approves \$783,000 proviso

\$411,000 passthrough funding to Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe & WSG

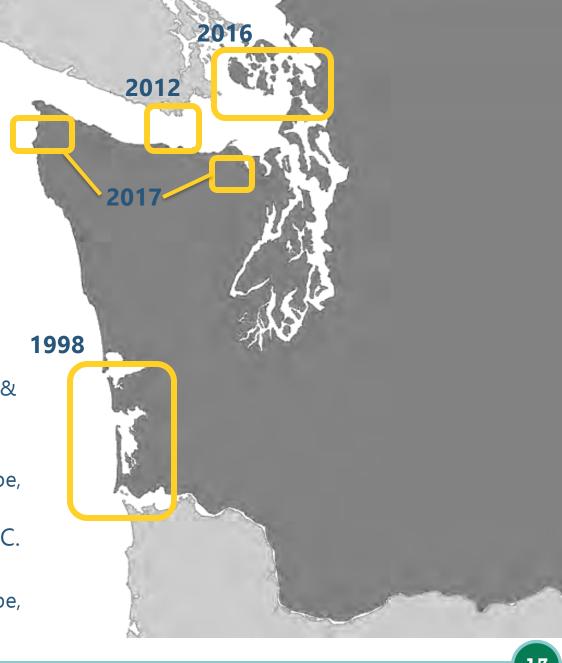
2021 – Legislature approves \$2.3 million ongoing funding

 \$1.2 million passthrough funding to Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, WSG & NW Straits Commission

2022 – Gov. Inslee released an emergency proclamation for EGC.

Legislature approves \$8.6 million ongoing funding

\$3.2 million passthrough funding to Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe,
 WSG + \$1.5 million available in grants



Areas of Operation

Management Branches

- Coastal Branch
- Salish Sea Branch

14 Management Areas

Further subdivided into Coordination Areas, Sites and Sub-Sites.

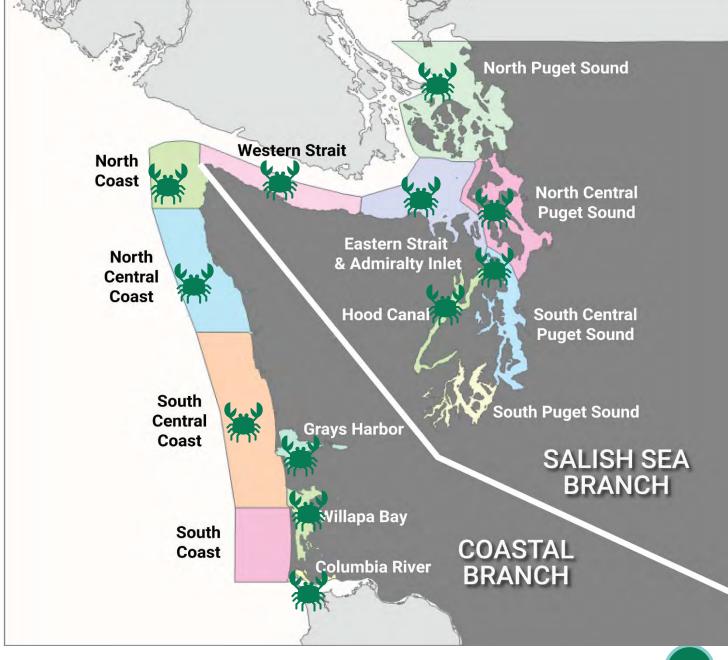




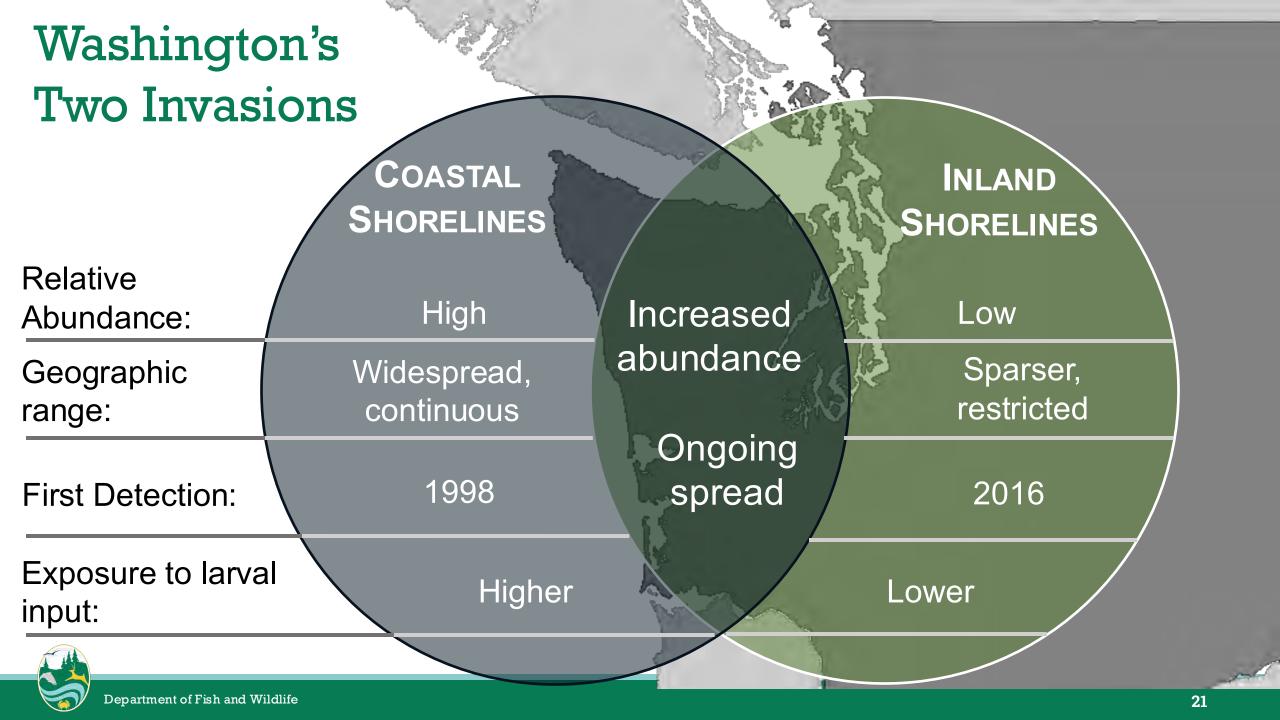
Crab numbers

Detected in 12 of 14 Management Areas

Year	Salish Sea	Pacific Coast	Total
2015	0	8	8
2016	5	19	24
2017	101	64	165
2018	77	1,115	1,192
2019	177	1,766	1,943
2020	2,858	3,971	6,829
2021	86,340	16,825	103,165
2022	81,006	204,274	285,280
2023	6,452	354,966	361,418
2024	4,568	1,044,794	1,049,362







Management Actions

Early Detection:

Detect green crabs as soon as possible

Assessment:

 Periodically assess the presence & geographic scope of a green crab population

Control:

Reduce abundance green crabs

Long-Term Monitoring:

Assess community over time





Photo by Washington State Department of Natural Resources

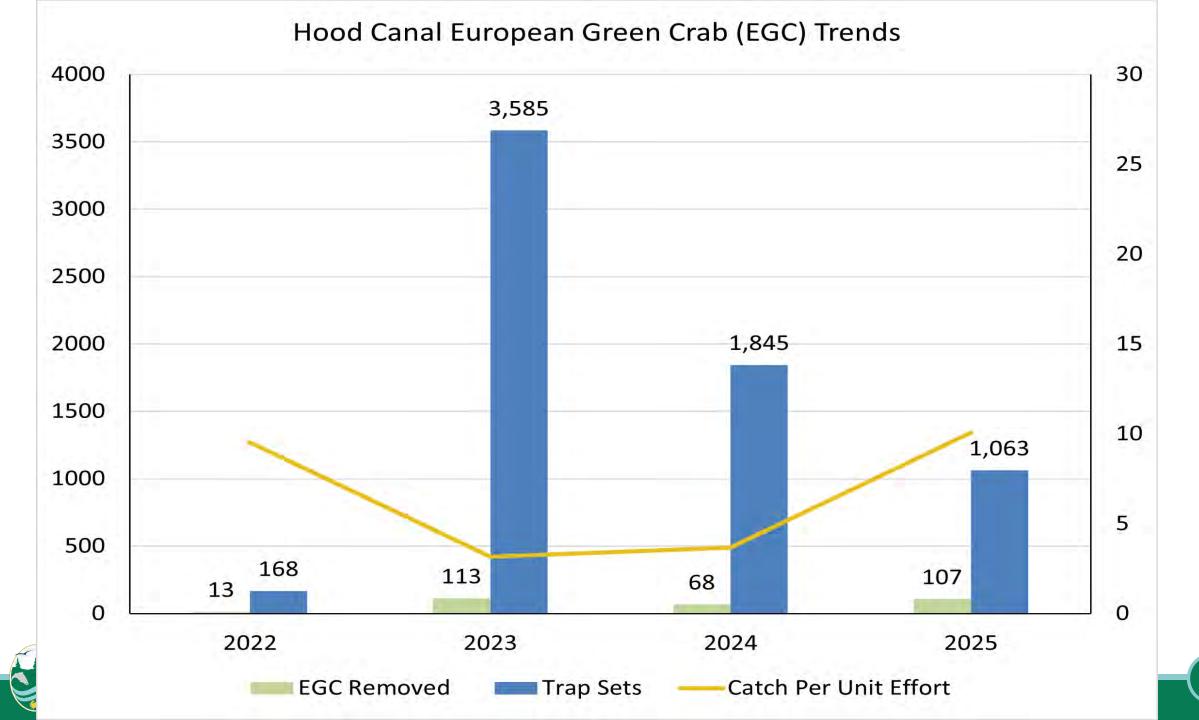


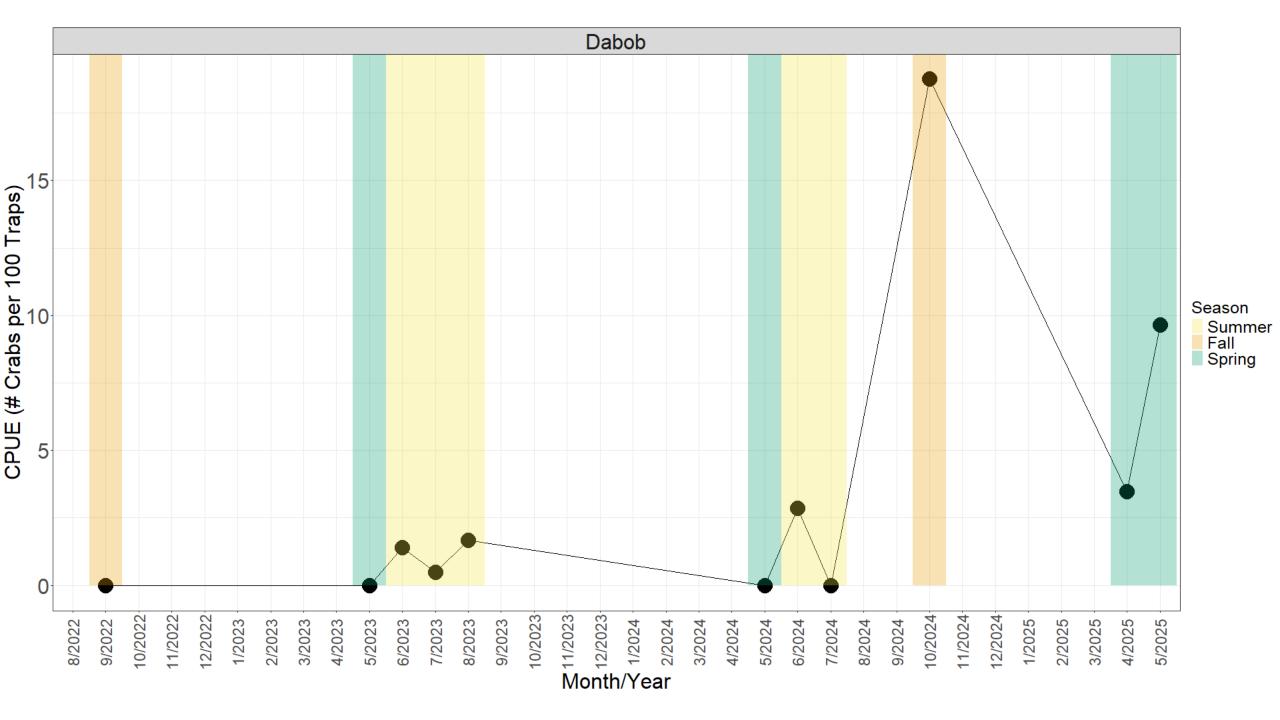


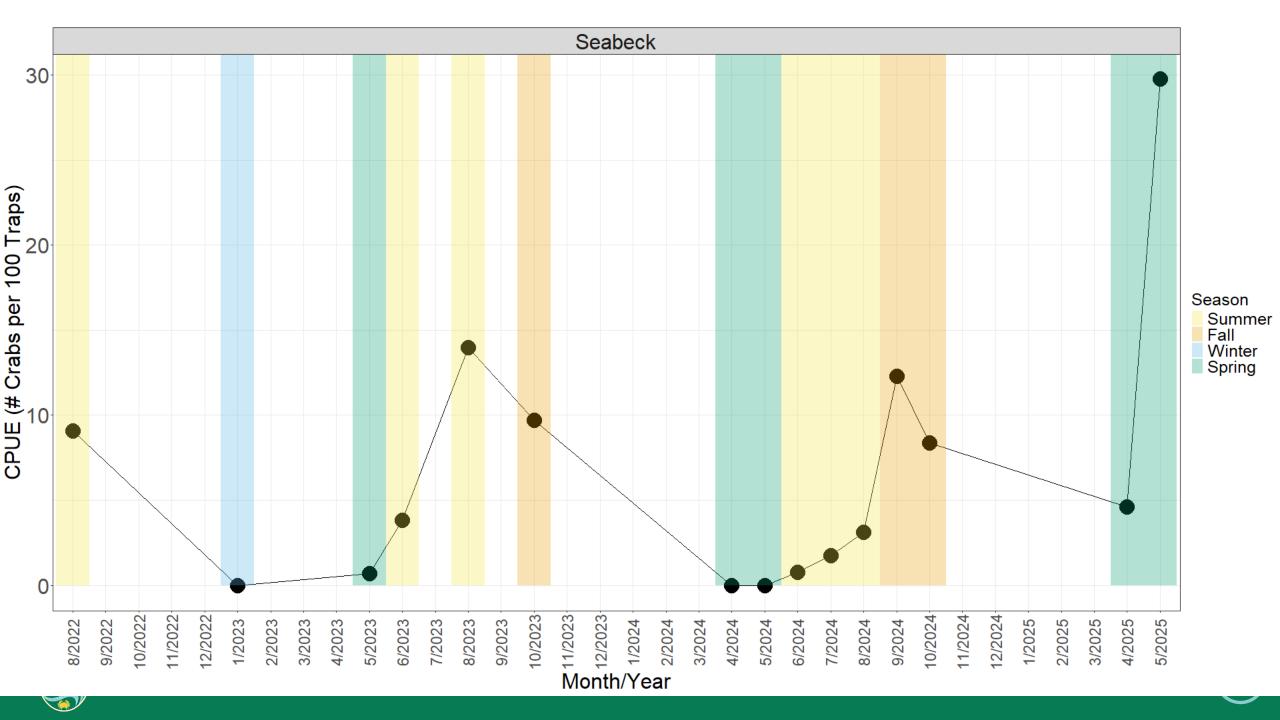
2024 Hood Canal

2024 Statewide Trapping









If you remember one thing...

Green crabs remain an emergency in Washington and beyond.

Much of Washington remains uninvaded.

If you think you find one, please report it

- Online at wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab
- Via email at ais@dfw.wa.gov
- Via phone at 1-888-WDFW-AIS
- Washington Invasive Species App









Questions?

Natalie Otto Salish Sea Regional Biologist Natalie.otto@dfw.wa.gov



Resources



WDFW EGC Webpage

https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/Carcinus-maenas Includes detailed information about EGC, public updates, outreach materials and other resources, and the emergency response coordination.



EGC Hub

https://wdfw-egc-hub-wdfw.hub.arcgis.com/

Includes the most recent information about catch numbers around the state and participating co-managers, tribes, and partners



EGC Reporting Form

https://wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab

Webpage intended for the public including EGC reporting and identification

Sign up for the WDFW EGC Management Updates email list!

https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/lists



Outreach Materials

Bi-Monthly Public Updates

Quarterly Reports to the State Legislature

Funding Information

Background information

Talking Points

List of co-managers, tribes, and partners

EGC Catch Count Dashboard

Contact

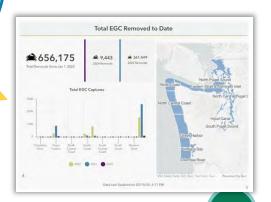
Lindsey Parker

Chase Gunnell

Communications Manager EGC Public Information Officer chase.qunnell@dfw.wa.gov

WDFW AIS Unit

1.888.WDFW.AIS (1.888.933.9247) ais@dfw.wa.gov







Community Meeting

June 25, 2025, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Innovations in Livestock Management: Virtual Fencing

Rebecca Anderson Bellanca, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service





USDA - NRCS Fence Opportunities 2025

Rebecca Anderson Bellanca

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Topics

- Fence Portable Electric Fence (scenario)
- Fence Virtual Fence (scenario)





FARM PRODUCT

Business Center



















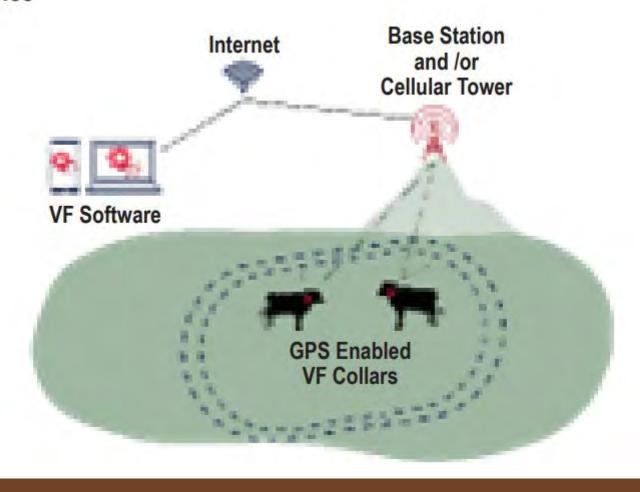
FARM PRODUCTION

ısiness Center



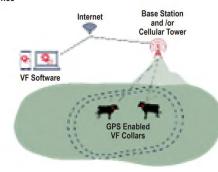
Fence - Virtual Fence

Virtual Fence



Fence - Virtual Fence

- 3 components
 - GPS
 - Collar
 - Device
- Batteries
- Cell network, internet, base stations
- Boundaries





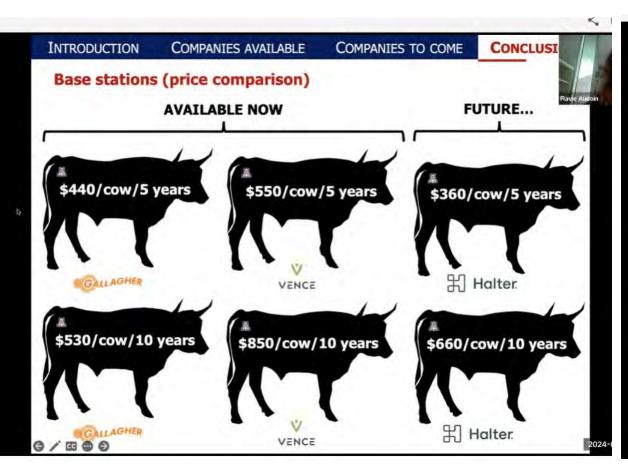
VF Software GPS Enabled VF Collars

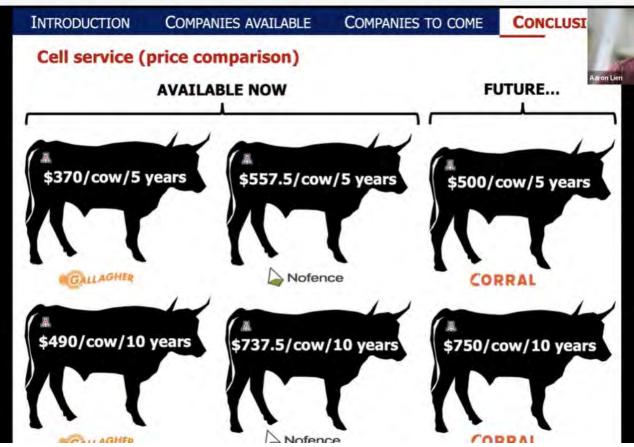
Base Station

Fence - Virtual Fence

Pros	Cons
 Increased control Timing, intensity, duration, frequency Implement grazing systems: Rotational, targeted, cover crop/aftermath, sensitive areas Easy to modify Changing ecological conditions Decrease labor, time, financial investments 	 Technology Costs Train livestock Handle livestock Still need some physical fences Not 100% containment

Fence - Virtual Fence







	Washington	Mason WA EQIP- 1	382	Fence	Virtual Fence, Startup Year One, 51 to 199 Animals	No	163.11
	Washington	Mason WA EQIP- 1	382	Fence	Virtual Fence, Startup Year One, Greater Than or Equal to 200 Animals	No	105.87
	Washington	Mason WA EQIP- 1	382	Fence	Virtual Fence, Startup Year One, Less Than or Equal to 50 Animals	No	306.48
	Washington	Mason WA EQIP- 1	382	Fence	Virtual Fence, Startup Year One, Sheep or Goat	No	259.38
	Washington	Mason WA EQIP- 1	382	Fence	HU-Virtual Fence, Startup Year One, 51 to 199 Animals	No	195.72
	Washington	Mason WA EQIP- 1	382	Fence	HU-Virtual Fence, Startup Year One, Greater Than or Equal to 200 Animals	No	127.04
	Washington	Mason WA EQIP- 1	382	Fence	HU-Virtual Fence, Startup Year One, Less Than or Equal to 50 Animals	No	367.78
	Washington	Mason WA EQIP- 1	382	Fence	HU-Virtual Fence, Startup Year One, Sheep or Goat	No	311.26

Washington	Mason WA EQIP- 1	528	Prescribed Grazing	HU-Virtual Fence Adaptive Management, Years 2-5	No	92.06
Washington	Mason WA EQIP- 1	528	Prescribed Grazing	Virtual Fence Adaptive Management, Years 2-5	No	76.72

What's the Process?

Contact NRCS

- Field Visit
- Applications year round
- Contact FSA (Farm Service Agency)
- Create Conservation Plan

- Application Deadline and Batching
- NRCS Ranks Applications
- Notification of Funding
- Sign Contract
- Complete practices, get reimbursed

Approximate Timeline

Anytime during the year

- October 2025
- February 2026
- March/April 2026
- June 2026
- As completed

Fence – Portable Electric

- Grazing and vegetation management
- Need grazing plan
- Manufacturer recommendations
- Electronet, polywire
- Lifespan: 10 years
- Type of system: Based on livestock, length of run, power availability
- All requirements / changes must be approved by NRCS

Fence – Portable Electric

Inventory / Plan						
Livestock type, number, herds	Bracing					
Ground system (rods, rod wire, rod clamps)	Accessories (handles, guides, stands, warning signs)					
Fence height	Gates					
Insulators	Wire (number strands, spacing, type, splicing, tension)					
Energizer	Reels (type, number, length)					
Posts & spacing	Net (horizontal & vertical wires)					
Tumblewheels	Conductivity description					
Offsets	Number of net rolls needed, length					
Wildlife structures & flagging	Grazing Plan					

Fence – Portable Electric

Reimbursement Rates – FY 2025

Washington	Mason WA EQIP- 1	382	Fence	Electric, Portable	Ft	0.79
Washington	Mason WA EQIP- 1	382	Fence	HU-Electric, Portable	Ft	0.95

Conclusion

- Fence Portable Electric Fence (scenario)
- Fence Virtual Fence (scenario)

Thank you!

<u>Rebecca.Anderson@usda.gov</u>

<u>Sean.McDonagh@usda.gov</u>



Community Meeting

June 25, 2025, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Hood Canal Tourism

Rachel Hansen, Explore Hood Canal/Mason County Tourism Coordinator





PURPOSE

Meet the evolving needs of tourism

"Today's consumers crave authentic experiences, venturing into pastimes that feel more meaningful."







Festivals and Events 10 major and multiple regional throughout the year Olympic National Park 2,947,503 (2023) | Olympic National Forest Washington State Parks (7) 1648764 visitors /year | Mason County Parks (20) Public Golf Courses (5) | Disc Golf

Extensive Trail System land and water – for biking, hiking, walking, riding, and paddling Agritourism land and sea, including Shellfish Trail with public harvesting regularly stocked Sports Recreation | fishing & hunting | Bird Watching Boating and Water-based Activities

Ridge Motorsports 400+ events annually; 100K+ participants and spectators Skydive Kapowsin 30,000+ jumps annually Scuba Diving unique underwater biomes on Hood Canal.

- DESTINATION MARKETING:
 Improve, expand and diversify targeted seasonal promotions to elevate awareness of the Olympic Peninsula and the incredible variety of reasons to visit during every month of the year.
- DESTINATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

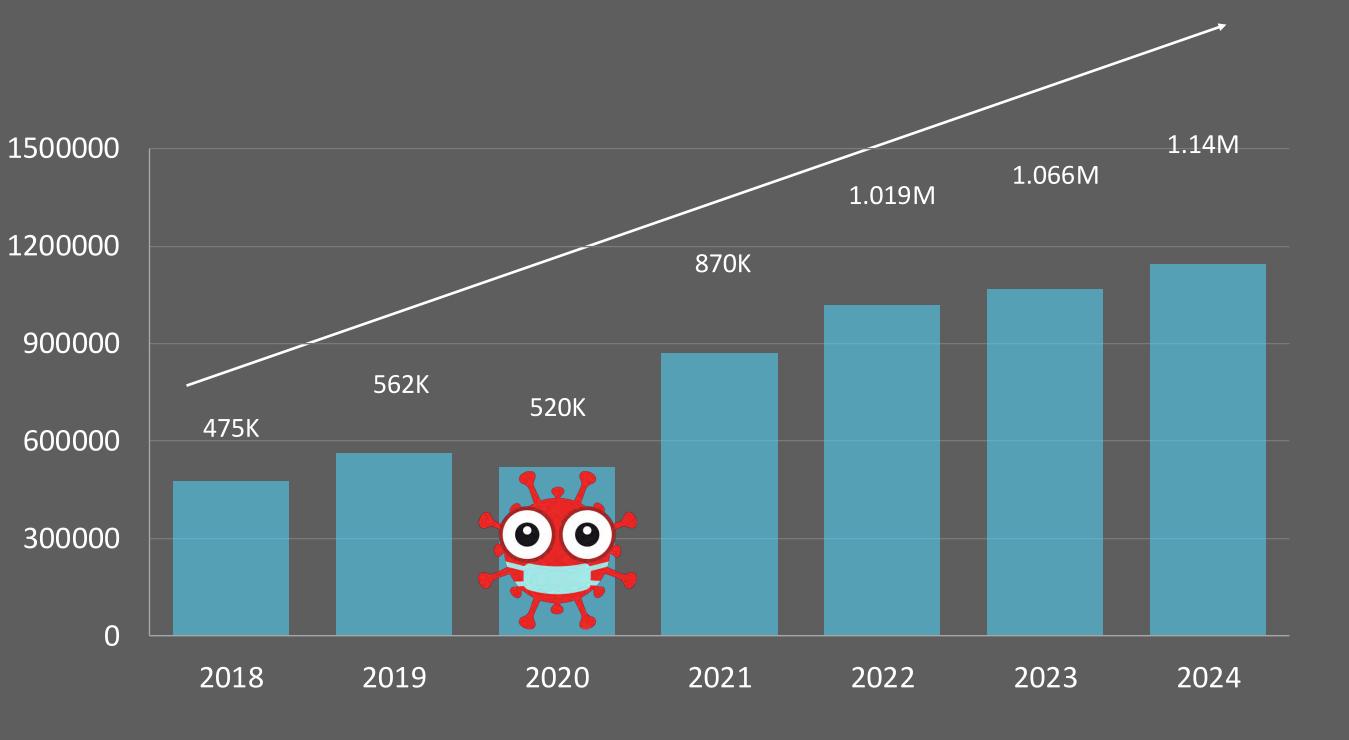
 Create and/or enhance tourism infrastructure, visitor experiences, amenities and services to increase overall industry capacity to attract higher visitor spending during spring, fall and winter.
- PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR ALIGNMENT:

 Enhance how the tourism industry and local/regional governments work together to identify opportunities for local small business development and responsible growth around a shared vision for the future.



LODGING TAX REVENUES

TOURISM

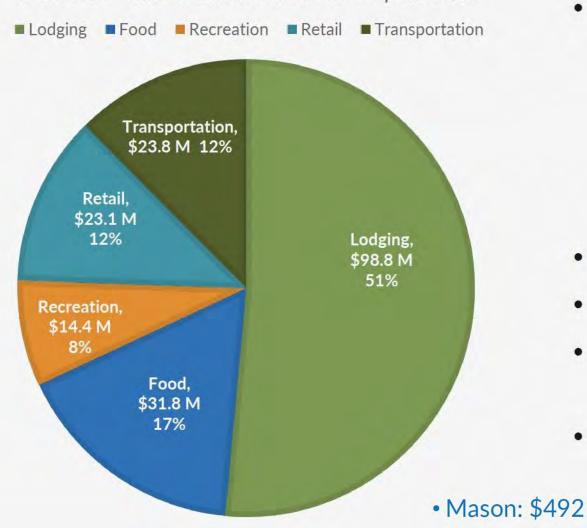


ECONOMIC IMPACT LOCALLY

TOURISM

VALUE OF TOURISM TO MASON COUNTY Visitors Save Locals Money

DIRECT VISITOR SPENDING \$192 M

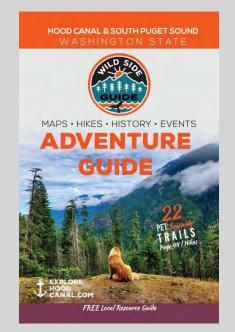


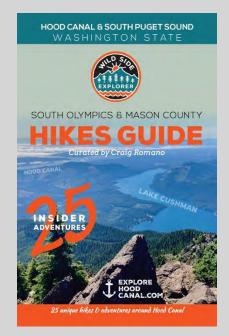
- Direct Visitor Spending: \$192 M (+3.9%)
 - Lodging \$98.8 M
 - Food / Beverage: \$31.8 M
 - Recreation: \$14.4 M
 - Retail: \$23.1 M
 - Transportation: \$23.8 M
- Direct State/Local Taxes Generated: \$12.5 M
- Visits: **1,195,000** (+1.3%)
- Direct Employment: 693
 - Represents 3.3% of all county employment
- Direct Labor Income: \$36.5 M

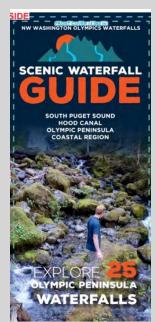
Source: Tourism Economics for SWT

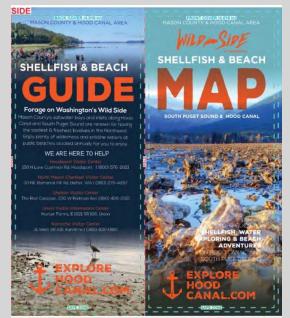
Tax savings per county household:







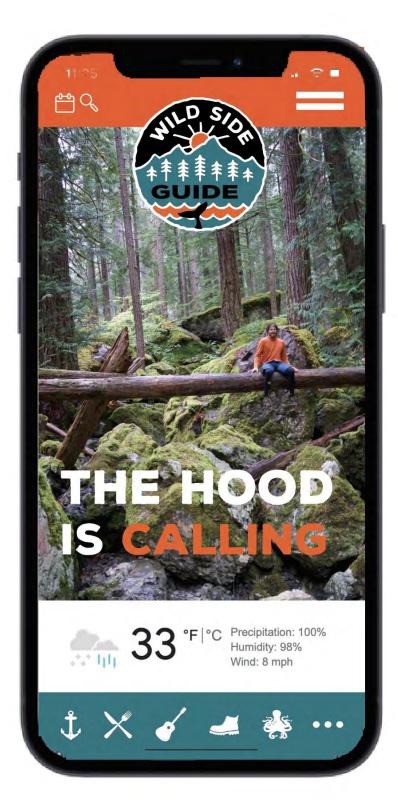








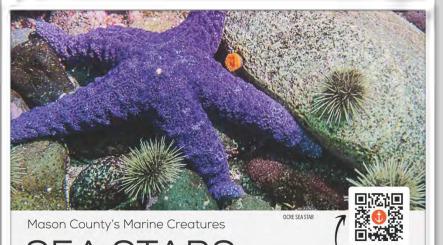












Mason County's Marine Creatures

SEA STARS

STORY & PICTURE BY THOM ROBBINS

Starfish have no brains or blood. They digest food outside their bodies and can regrow lost arms-even a whole new starfish from one arm. There are about 2,000 sea star species worldwide, with over 30 found nearby. Starfish are echinoderms, along with sea urchins, sand dollars, and sea cucumbers. These animals have five arms (sometimes more) arranged in a radial pattern. They have an internal skeleton made of calcium carbonate plates.

Instead of blood, stars use seawater in their vascular system. This system helps them move by extending and pulling back tiny tube feet on their arms, which act like suction cups. This lets them crawl, stick to rocks, and climb. They also eat in a unique way. After opening a shell a little, they push their stomach out of their body and into the shell, turning the prey into liquid so they can suck it in. Starfish can regrow lost arms. Sometimes, a part of an arm with part of the central body can even grow into a whole new starfish

The life of a starfish starts with spawning. During breeding, species like the Giant Pink Starfish release many sperm and eggs into the water, where fertilization happens. The fertilized eggs drift with ocean currents as plankton. When they hatch, starfish are tiny, free-swimming larvae. These larvae are small and seethrough, moving with tiny hairs called cilia. After weeks or months, they change through metamorphosis, settling on the sea floor and becoming juvenile starfish. They grow their star shape and tube feet to move and find food. Some, like the Red Sea Star, can live

STARFISH OR SEA STARS?

Although "STARFISH" remains the more popular term in everyday language, without scales, fins, and gills, "SEA STARS" are not actually fish. Scientists prefer to

learn more



Sea stars are important in coastal areas, where they keep different species in check. They can survive strong waves. heat, and dryness during low tides, but during the 2014them vulnerable to sea star wasting disease. Researchers are working to fight this by breeding disease-resistant sea stars. Some places raise young sea stars in captivity and release them to boost wild populations and add stronger individuals. This disease caused a 90% drop in Sunflower Star numbers on the Pacific Coast by 2021. This shows how important it is to protect these key sea animals. Breeding resistant starfish and watching their health are vital to help them survive.





WILD-SIPE























EXPLORE HOOD CANAL

WILD-SIDE





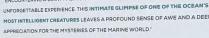




cutting prey. Saliva secretes corros











Community Meeting

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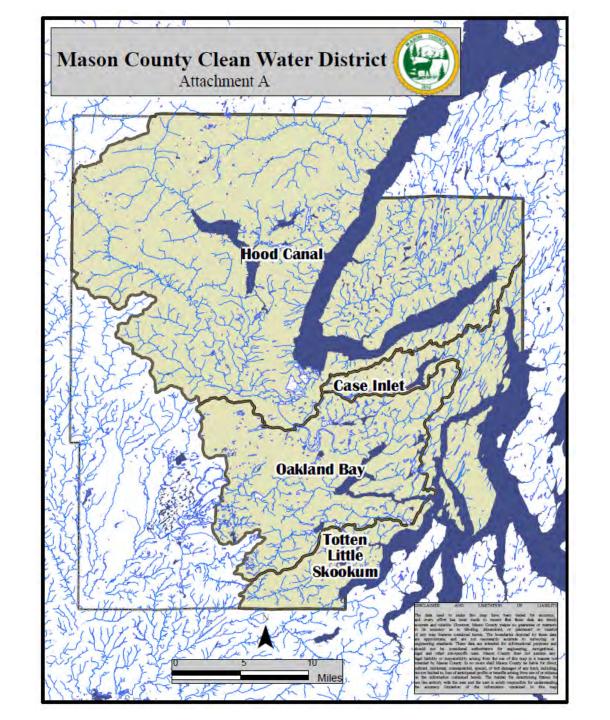
Mason County Water Quality Update

Noah Roland, Mason County Public Health Michael Marrs, Mason County Public Health



Mason County Clean Water District

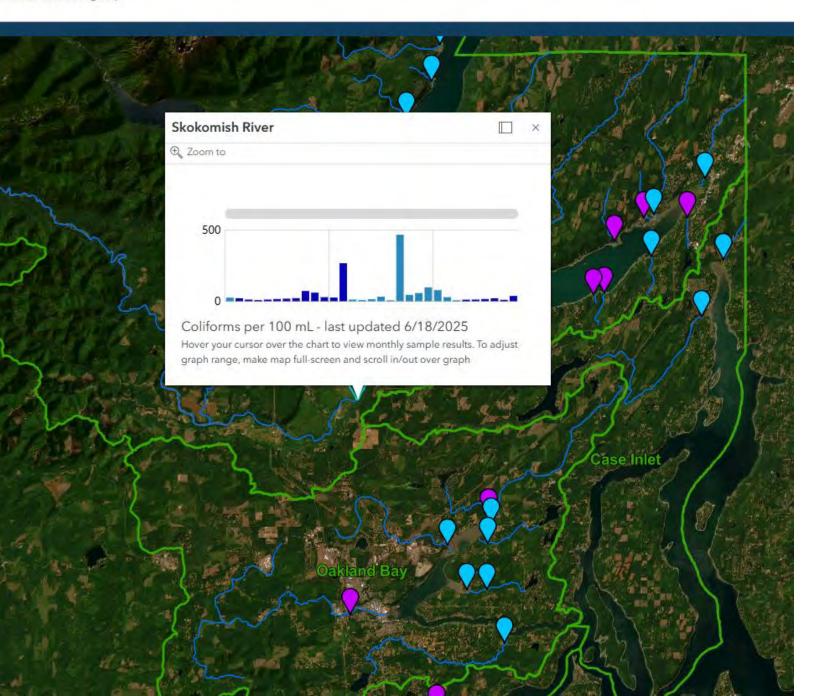
Michael Marrs & Noah Roland



What We DO:

- Collect monthly ambient water samples from 33 streams throughout the Clean Water District
- Conduct Water Quality Surveys
- Conduct shoreline surveys twice a year
- Follow up with Septic Deficiencies within proximity to surface water
- Conduct Voluntary Dye Tests for suspect failing septic systems
- Collaboration with DOH, Ecology, WDFW, Local Tribes and others





Ambient Monitoring Web Map

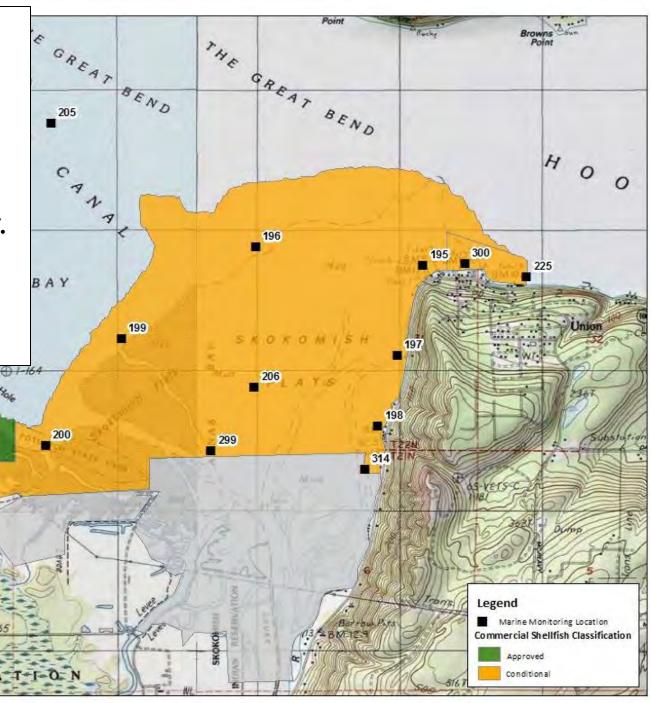


Mason County, WA



Conditionally Approved Condition:

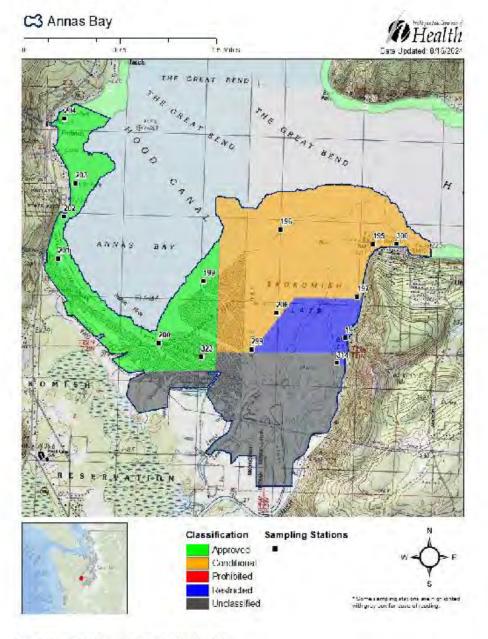
The Conditionally Approved area of Annas Bay will be closed to shellfish harvest when the Skokomish River exceeds 15 feet. Closures due to flooding will last one week (7 days) after the river drops below 15 feet.



Current Shellfish Conditions

- State Department of Health was able to open a significant portion on the West side.
- There are still deficient systems on the shoreline that need to be resolved.
- With more Data and decreased pollution Annas Bay will continue to improve.





Page 5 of 5 — Shellfish Growing Area Section 360-236-3330

Recent Data

- Sampled 25 outflows in April.
- 1 came back above limits in initial sampling.
- Well below limit in confirmation sampling.
- Next shoreline survey planned for July or Early August.



STRATEGY **FOR** ANNAS BAY



Monitor Marine & Fresh Water Quality



Control OSS Pollution Sources



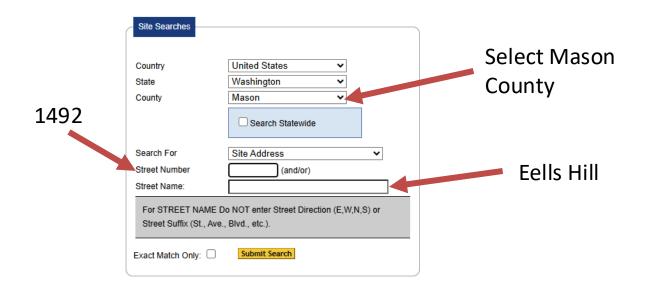
Control Agricultural Pollution



Education & Outreach

Onsite Sewage Maintenance Schedule and Approved Service Providers

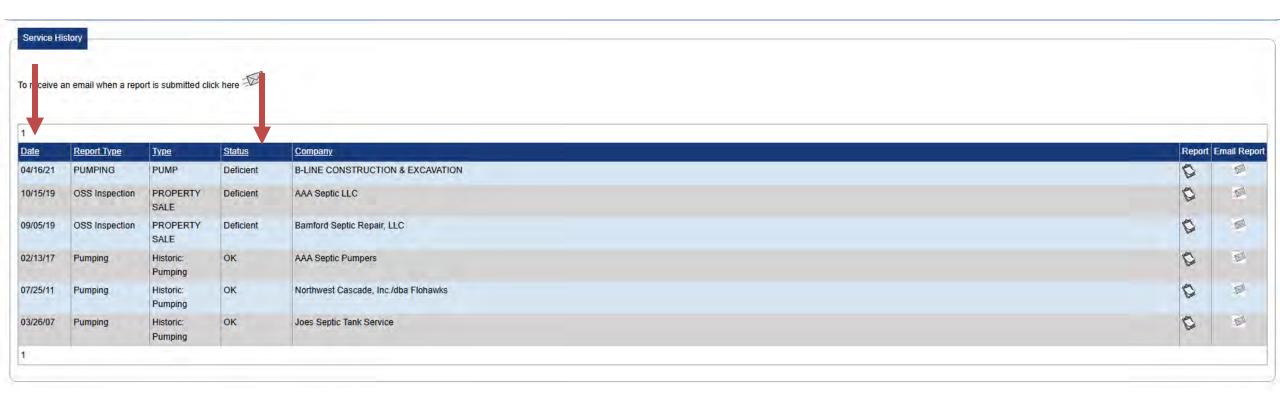
	S	Septic System Typ	oe .	
Conventional Gravity	Conventional Pressure & Open Bottom Sandfilter	Mound & Sandfilter	ATU, Glendon, Recirculating Gravel Filter, Sub-Surf. Drip & Community Drainfield	Non-Residential Commercial
	In	spection Frequer	тсу	
Every 3 years	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually, Testing may be required.
	Appr	oved Service Pro	viders	3.0
Homeowner, Pumper, O/M Specialist	Homeowner, Pumper, O/M Specialist	Homeowner, O/M Specialist	O/M Specialist, Proprietary Device Licensee	O/M Specialist



If your address was 1492 W Eells Hill Rd, you enter: 1492 Eells Hill

OnlineRME.com

Service History





Community Meeting

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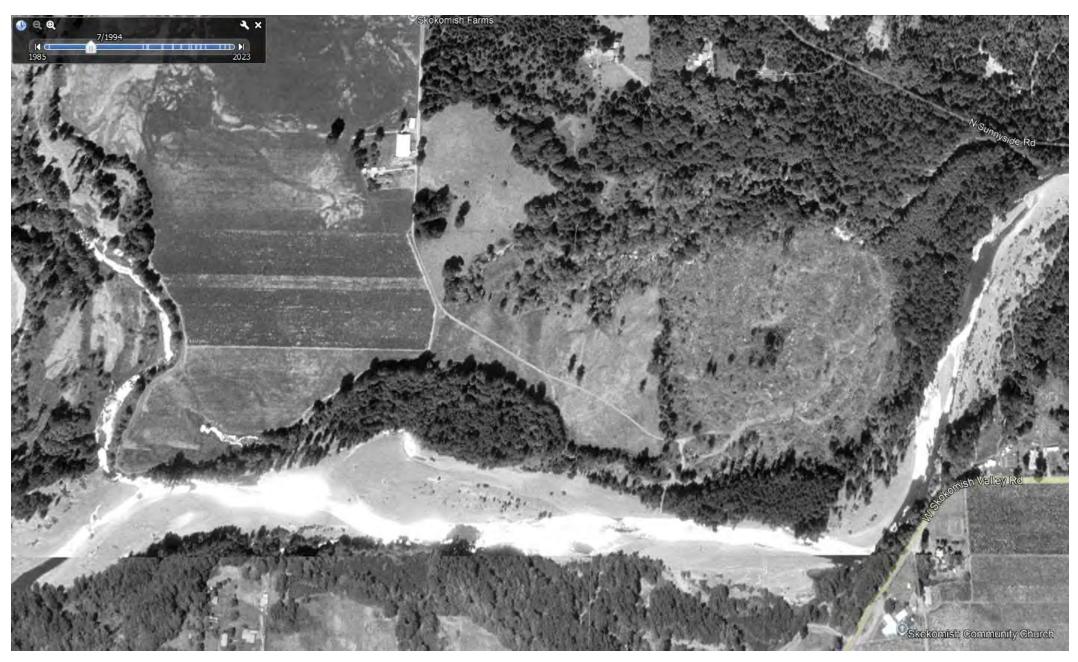
Skokomish River Restoration Update and Looking Forward for SWAT

Evan Bauder, Mason Conservation District

Skokomish Confluence Reach Restoration

SWAT

06/25/2025







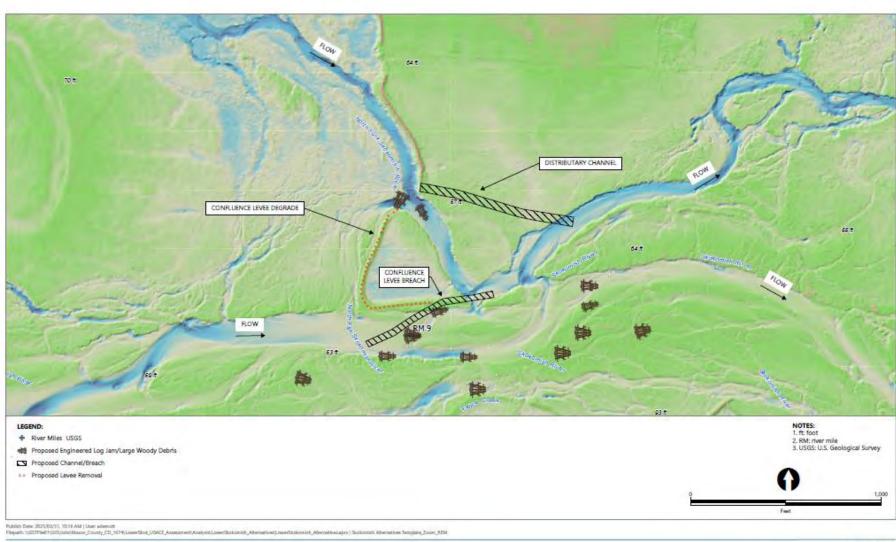


Existing Conditions



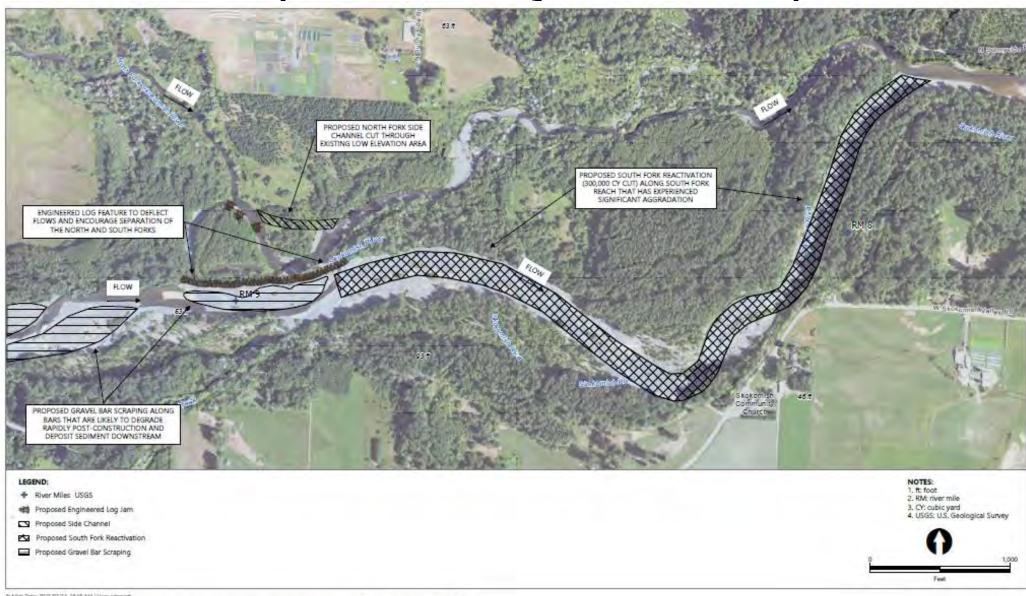
- Unnatural Level of Flooding!!!
- Rising Ground Water
- South Fork Fish Passage Barrier
- Swift Creek Fish Passage Barrier
- Sedimentation in North Fork =Channel Simplification
- Aggradation in Lower Vance Creek
- Fish Stranding

Army Corps Design





Updated Project Concept

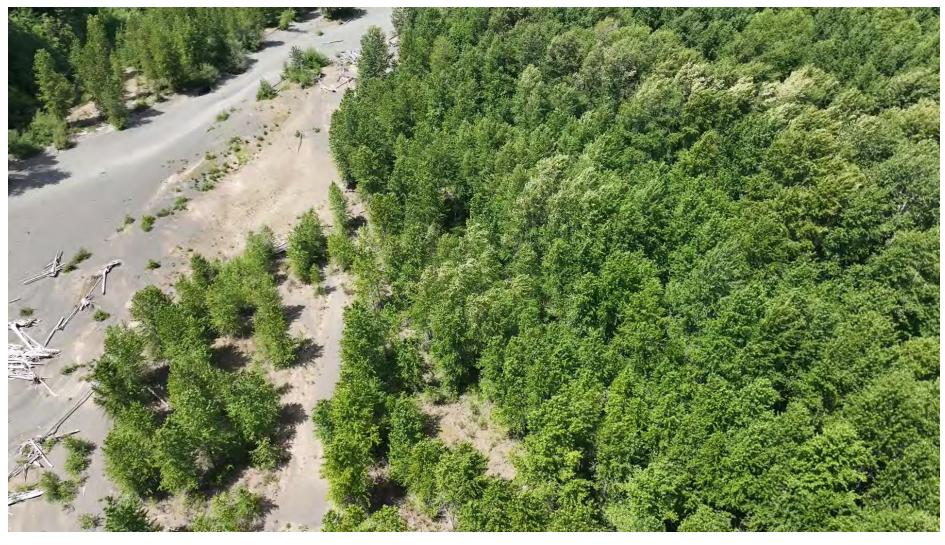


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Flageth ViSTRiel ViSS (continue County CO, 1974) (new Social Assessment Analysis Livery Social Indianative County County Co. 1974) (new Social Assessment Analysis Livery Social Indianative County County County County Co



Confluence Video



Headcut Migration



Future Conditions



- Improved channel capacity
- Year-round flow
- North Fork recovery
- Fish Passage to Vance Creek,
 South Fork, and Swift Creek



Next Steps

- Community Meetings
 - Individual meetings
 - Group meetings
- Meet with regulators/permitting agencies
- Design/Planning Continues
 - Other projects
 - Phase II
 - RM5 Side Channel



Questions and Comments



The Future of the Skokomish Watershed Action Team

- What should be the primary purpose of SWAT meetings?
- What natural resource issues should we focus on?
- Who should be attending that isn't here?
- Other questions/ideas?

The Future of the Skokomish Watershed Action Team

- How often should SWAT meet? Historically, we have met two times per year. Is that enough?
- Should we do more field trips?
- What time of year works best for meetings?