WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

2013 | **Annual Report to the Legislature**

WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Washington Invasive
Species Council

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Introduction

THE WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

In 2006, the state Legislature created the Washington Invasive Species Council with a call to action – to better protect Washington from the devastating impacts of invasive species and to do so among multiple levels of government. In 2011, the Washington State Legislature voted unanimously to continue the council for six more years (Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.310).

This report summarizes the work of the council in 2013.

IN HARM'S WAY: WASHINGTON'S ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

Expansions of global trade and increases in human mobility have resulted in unprecedented invasions by nonnative, invasive species. Whether on land or in water, invasive species can produce severe, often irreversible, impacts on industries, infrastructure, agriculture, recreation, salmon habitat, native people's cultural resources, and other natural resources. These species don't have native predators and are often more aggressive and more prolific reproducers, so they can out-compete local plants and animals for food.

In the United States, the economic cost of invasions by non-native species reaches billions of dollars each year, as illustrated in the text box below. Invasive species also can undo the millions of dollars invested in restoring critical salmon habitat. Washington's economy is also threatened because invasive species can damage many key industries and public utilities. For example:

- The Northwest Power and Conservation Council has calculated that a zebra or quagga mussel invasion in the Snake or Columbia Rivers would cost upwards of $300 million in annual maintenance and lost opportunities to the hydropower industry, hatcheries, public utility districts, and farmers.

- The cost of keeping western forests free of gypsy moth is $20 million annually.

- Invasive species, such as feral pigs, can harbor and spread disease, such as swine brucellosis, pseudorabies, and foot-and-mouth disease, directly to domesticated livestock and humans.

- Recreational boating, fishing, and seaplane opportunities are cut off when invasive species, such as the New Zealand mud snail and viral hemorrhagic septicemia (a fish disease) become established in lakes and streams. To halt the spread of these species, the infested water bodies often are closed to the public.

Estimated Economic Costs of Selected Invasive Species
(Congressional Research Service, 2013)

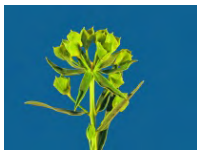
Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*): Costs an estimated **$1 billion** annually in recreational fishery losses and controls in the Great Lakes and lower Colorado River, as well as cleaning of water intake pipes, filtration equipment, power generating equipment, and damage to docks and recreational or commercial boats. Includes the cost of boat inspection programs and other prevention efforts in the Pacific Northwest states.

Formosan termites (*Coptotermes formosanus*): Costs an estimated **$1 billion** annually including several hundred million dollars in New Orleans alone.

Imported fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta* and *S. ricteria*): Costs an estimated **$1 billion** annually including $300 million in Texas alone.

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*): Costs an estimated **$860 million** in Florida in damages to agriculture, flood control, and residential property values.

Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*): Costs an estimated **$680 million** annually from recreational fishery losses and control costs in the northern United States and Canada



Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*): Costs an estimated **$100 million** annually in cattle forage losses in North Dakota and still is spreading throughout the northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountain areas.

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*): Costs an estimated **$45 million** annually across nearly all the United States, attributable to forage losses and to control costs.

Brown tree snakes (*Boiga irregularis*): Costs an estimated **$12 million** annually. In Guam alone, management and controls cost $4 million a year. Other unaccounted for damages include power outages, slowed transportation and shipping, lost agricultural productivity, lost recreation and tourism, healthcare costs from snake bites; and loss of bird species attributable to the snake in Guam.

Weeds, pests, and plant and animal diseases affecting U.S. agricultural crop and livestock production total nearly **$65 billion** annually.

THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL

The council is a partnership of local, tribal, state, and federal governments, as well as the private sector and nongovernmental interests. It provides policy direction, planning, and coordination on invasive species prevention and response. The council has established a strategic and unified approach to stopping invaders at the gate, identified 50 priority species, and is providing the leadership and coordination on invasive species prevention and response that the agencies do not have the resources to do. The council also tracks the progress made in implementing the strategic plan and determining whether or not those efforts are reducing the presence and harm caused by invasive species.

To protect Washington's natural resources and economic interests from invasive species, the council determined that five critical elements need to be accomplished:

1. Determine the breadth and depth of the invasive species threat and use that information **strategically to target resources** where they are most needed and effective.
2. Improve the capability to **prevent** new infestations and **act quickly and decisively** upon **discovering new threats**.
3. Establish clear, statewide **priorities** for action (accomplished in 2009).
4. Strengthen **control** efforts for established infestations.
5. **Communicate** the gravity of invasive species and, in doing so, change opinions and behaviors.

During this past year, and similar to the previous year, the council's work has focused on Critical Elements 1 and 2 – creating an assessment to target resources strategically where they are most needed and improving our capacity to prevent new invasions and take quick action when new invasions are found. Education and outreach also continues to be an important part of the council's work, with staff participating in numerous outreach events and speaking engagements in 2013. The council continues to take steps forward towards implementing our strategy and creating better protections against invasive species.

2013 COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Critical Element 1: Strategically Targeting Resources

Assessing Invasive Species in the Puget Sound, Phase 2

When the council began its strategic planning, many big picture questions were asked, such as "What invasive species are in Washington? Where are they? What impacts are they having? How are they

moving around? Who is managing them and how effective is that management?" At that time, the answers to all of the questions were not known. Existing data and information regarding invasive species in the Puget Sound Basin and beyond were not centralized, which made it difficult to evaluate the current status and potential future impacts of invasive species and to coordinate management programs.

Bringing these pieces together and making sense of them became the first recommended action in the council's strategic plan, *Invaders at the Gate*. It also was identified in the *2012/2013 Action Agenda for Puget Sound* as one of the top strategies for protecting Puget Sound ecosystems and habitat. The Puget Sound Partnership recognized that this project will contribute significantly to the larger Puget Sound Partnership effort of evaluating ecosystem status and trends in Puget Sound and identifying key indicator invasive species to monitor long-term. Lacking this information, the state's ability to identify gaps in prevention and control and take steps to plug those gaps is limited severely.

To begin implementing this recommendation and getting a handle on where species were located, who was managing them, and what sensitive resources were at risk, in 2009-2010, the council created the first ever invasive species baseline assessment. Compiling existing information from disjointed sources, the assessment identified the extent and impacts of 15 of the council's 50 priority invasive species and identified gaps in protection and control. The assessment was provided to local governments and other organizations that conduct invasive species work to enhance their efforts and was also used to create an invasive marine algae control program within the Washington Department of Ecology. For more information on the council's priority species, visit the council's Web site.

In early 2012, the council received a $225,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to expand the baseline assessment project to an additional 18 priority invasive species. Work began in late 2012 and will be completed in early 2014. The Phase 2 project builds on the first phase, incorporating similar methodology and deliverables for 18 additional priority species or species groups (see Table 1). Preliminary results from the Phase 2 project show that:

- Of the 18 species, those not found in the Puget Sound Basin are the rusty crayfish, Chinese mitten crab, European green crab, marine clams, Eastern dogwood borer (a bark-boring moth), and infectious salmon anemia.

- Of the 18 species, those found in all of the Puget Sound Basin counties are purple loosestrife, invasive knotweed, and giant hogweed.

- Most invasive species programs are not evaluated for effectiveness and, as a result, there is a corresponding lack of understanding about which programs are or are not working and why.

- Organizations at multiple levels are involved in preventing and managing the spread of invasive species in the Puget Sound Basin. However, opportunities exist to improve these efforts and reduce duplication. A standardized data collection and reporting method for use by the various organizations involved with each species would encourage better data sharing across the region.

More conclusions will follow when the report is completed.

Table 1: Priority Invasive Species in Phase 2 Baseline Assessment for Puget Sound

Plants	Animals	Insects and Diseases
Butterfly bush*	Chinese mitten crab	Bark-boring moths
Eurasian watermilfoil*	Crayfish – Red swamp* and rusty	Infectious salmon anemia
Giant hogweed*	European green crab*	
Garlic mustard*	Marine clams	
Knotweeds* – Bohemian, giant, Japanese	Mediterranean snail*	
Loosestrifes* – Purple and garden	New Zealand mud snail*	
Parrot feather*		
*Currently or previously found in the Puget Sound Basin		

This phase of the project also involved the creation of a survey tool – a smartphone app – to be used for an annual update of the information. The app includes information on all of the council's 50 priority invasive species and makes it easy for the 'reporter' and the public to include geographic information as well as photographs. All verified reports are mapped and made available to anyone interested.

Results of the baseline assessment will be incorporated into the Department of Ecology's Puget Sound Watershed Characterization Project, a tool designed to help local governments with restoration strategies and land use planning.

An example map is shown below (Figure 1).

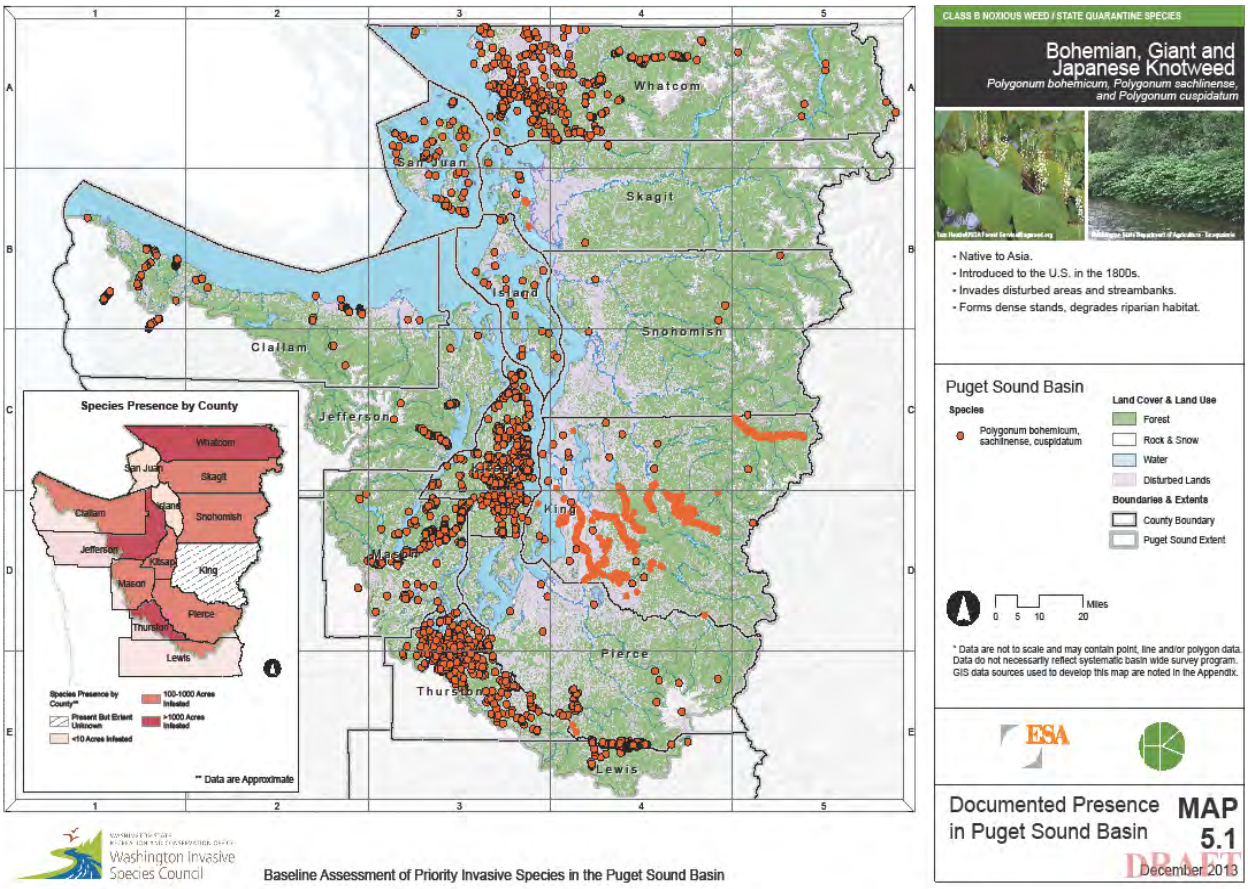
Critical Element 2: Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species

Once the council has an idea of where species are distributed and how they move around – their 'pathways' – the next step is to prevent them from being introduced or spreading in the first place. The council refers to this as prevention, which is the least costly and most environmentally-safe approach to invasive species management because no chemical or mechanical control is needed. Prevention efforts focus not on the individual species but on the way it arrives here, with the intent to close down that particular pathway.

With invasive species, unfortunately, the pathways are numerous. Some of the more common pathways include ballast water in ships, boat hulls, boat trailers, fishing bait and aquarium releases, live food industry, illegal stocking of fish in ponds and lakes, firewood and wood-packing materials, school science kit specimens (live plants and animals) that are released, and field work such as habitat restoration. In northern California, for example, it was the salmon recovery work in streams that spread New Zealand mud snails throughout several watersheds.

While council member agencies have made progress addressing pathways under their authorities (e.g, ballast water, boat inspections, illegal stocking of fish, nursery industry), the council's focus is on the unaddressed or under-addressed pathways. This year, the council made considerable progress in addressing the pathways of school science kits, field work involving restoration and construction projects, and the continued movement of zebra and quagga mussels from infested waters.

Figure 1. Example map from the Baseline Assessment Phase 2. The distribution of invasive knotweeds in the Puget Sound Basin.



Stopping the Release of Invasive Species in School Science Kits

Using federal funds, the council provided a grant to the Pacific Education Institute (PEI), to continue work to eliminate the release of invasive species from school science kits and to keep invasive species an important topic in Washington classrooms. The council's work with PEI also has led to the creation of a new partnership among the council, the Northwest Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER), and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Working with these organizations, the council held two, all-day workshops this year. The first workshop, held in March, included science curriculum directors from across the state to introduce the subject of invasive species in science kits and train them on a newly-created invasive species lesson for the classroom. The second workshop occurred in September and brought science kit center managers and science directors together from across the state to determine ways to stop the release of science kit specimens. Some new policies and practices expected to follow that meeting include requiring all science kit specimens to be returned to kit centers alive or dead, finding some native substitutes, and preparing materials on proper disposal for teachers.

There was great work accomplished in these two days to educate educators about invasive species and their pathways of spread. A survey that followed the September workshop illustrated significant

changes in thinking and actions on invasive species. For example, some responses to the question "*Has your thinking about invasive species and science kits in Washington shifted as a result of this workshop?*" were:

- I used to think: If it is native, it was okay to release.
- I used to think: It was okay to release butterflies and dump soils back into a garden.
- But now I know: Any live materials used in a classroom should not ever be released.
- But now I know: It is better to have a no-release policy.

Some responses to the question, "*What is the one step you have taken as a result of this workshop?*" were:

- I've updated our Web site with information about all the live materials we use, including care and disposal information. I've also reminded all teachers of the disposal guidelines in e-mails.
- We have asked for and received a donated refrigerator and freezer so we can euthanize living organisms as required.
- We now have a policy to return all living materials for proper disposal.
- I have communicated proper disposal techniques at our science coordinators meeting, which represents 25 school districts.

Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species in Salmon Recovery Efforts

The council had several successes this year working programmatically to address prevention of invasive species. The council has been able to insert invasive species prevention in salmon recovery grant applications, restoration contracts, and in Washington State Department of Transportation pre-construction surveys and contracts.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board. At the council's request, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board approved invasive species prevention language in *Manual 18, Salmon Recovery Grants*, which is the guiding policy for its salmon recovery grants. The new language is part of the grant proposal evaluation criteria and is designed to stop the spread of invasive species by ensuring the use of materials (e.g., soil, gravel, wood) not infested with weed seeds or insects – and the cleaning of equipment as it is moved to and from a site. The language reads as follows:

> ***Describe the steps you will take to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive species during construction and restoration.*** *Specifically consider how you will use un-infested materials (i.e., soil, gravel, logs) and clean equipment entering and leaving the project area. Include all reasonable pathways of invasive species movement.*

Bonneville Power Administration. The council also contacted the Bonneville Power Administration with a similar request – to include invasive species prevention language as part of its habitat

restoration and construction contracts. The Bonneville Power Administration responded with full support of the council's request and made the following changes to its process:

- Updated milestones used in fish and wildlife mitigation contracts to address invasive species – relating to cleaning watercraft and equipment per recommended protocols and using Best Management Practices to stabilize soils and prevent spread of noxious weeds.

- For habitat work that receives Endangered Species Act coverage, project sponsors are required to sign off on new invasive species prevention and control measures.

- Inclusion of the same language that was adopted by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (see above) as a project evaluation criterion.

Washington State Department of Transportation. The most impressive efforts to institutionalize invasive species prevention this year came from the Washington State Department of Transportation. Given growing concerns of spreading New Zealand mud snail populations around Lake Washington and elsewhere, the department is now checking for the presence of this and other aquatic invasive species before conducting in-water work in the vicinity of known infestations. The department also now requires its highway maintenance crews to adopt Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Level 1 decontamination protocols for in-water work where there is risk of invasive species presence. When New Zealand mud snails were detected near the 520 bridge replacement construction site in Lake Washington, the council worked with the Department of Transportation to conduct additional aquatic invasive species surveys to determine whether the more stringent Level 2 protocols should be implemented. The Department of Transportation is currently working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that prevention and decontamination protocols are included in contracts where hydraulic project approval is required.

Additional work by the Department of Transportation this year included modifying its over-sized commercial hauler permit so that the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington State Patrol at port of entries are alerted when commercial boat haulers are heading into Washington. This will provide advanced warning to enforcement officers at our border crossings to inspect these out-of-state boats for the presence of invasive species like zebra and quagga mussels. The Department of Transportation also developed and provided trainings on new invasive species guidelines and practices for its roadside vegetation maintenance program.

Strengthening State Policy on Invasive Species Prevention

Earlier in the year, the council actively supported Senate Bill 5702, which became law in 2013. This new state law requires out-of-state boaters to have documentation showing that their boats were inspected and cleaned before entering Washington. The bill also adds Washington to the regional passport program for invasive species, which allows for reciprocity with watercraft inspection stations across state and provincial borders. It provides another important step towards ensuring invasive species are not transported into Washington waters on recreational boats.

More recently, the council has been working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife on a more comprehensive aquatic invasive species bill proposal. This proposed bill is more far-reaching than Senate Bill 5702 and will do more to prevent the introduction and stop the spread of aquatic invasive animal species. It also provides the council with additional responsibilities such as consulting with the

Department of Fish and Wildlife on listing prohibited species and developing rules on implementing infested site management plans.

On the weed front, the council weighed in on the noxious weed listing of two plant species – Japanese eelgrass and giant reed. Following a two-day science and management meeting on Japanese eelgrass, in which varying positions on the ecological role of Japanese eelgrass and the need for its management were discussed, the council brought together the Departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, and Ecology to craft a unified state position on this somewhat controversial species. The coordinated position was then presented to the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board as testimony at its November weed listing hearing.

The council also proposed to the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board to list giant reed on the noxious weed list. Giant reed is a highly invasive plant in the southwestern United States and is being promoted as a bio-fuel in Washington and Oregon. It is among the fastest growing terrestrial plants in the world, and replacement of native plant communities by giant reed results in low quality habitat and altered ecosystem functioning. This species becomes invasive when grown near water, such as in a riverine ecosystem, but is controllable in an agricultural setting where water inputs are limited. The council proposed this species to the weed board as a first step to get it on the Washington State Department of Agriculture's plant quarantine list, which would prohibit its transport and restrict its use. Over the past two years in several meetings, the council had discussions and presentations on this species and the benefits and risks of growing it for biofuel. With the background information already heard and vetted through the council, the Department of Agriculture was quick to begin working to add giant reed to the quarantine list, as well as require a special permit or compliance agreement to grow it under very restricted conditions. This would allow for its commercial growth on a small scale and outside of riparian, wetland, special flood zone, and open irrigation areas.

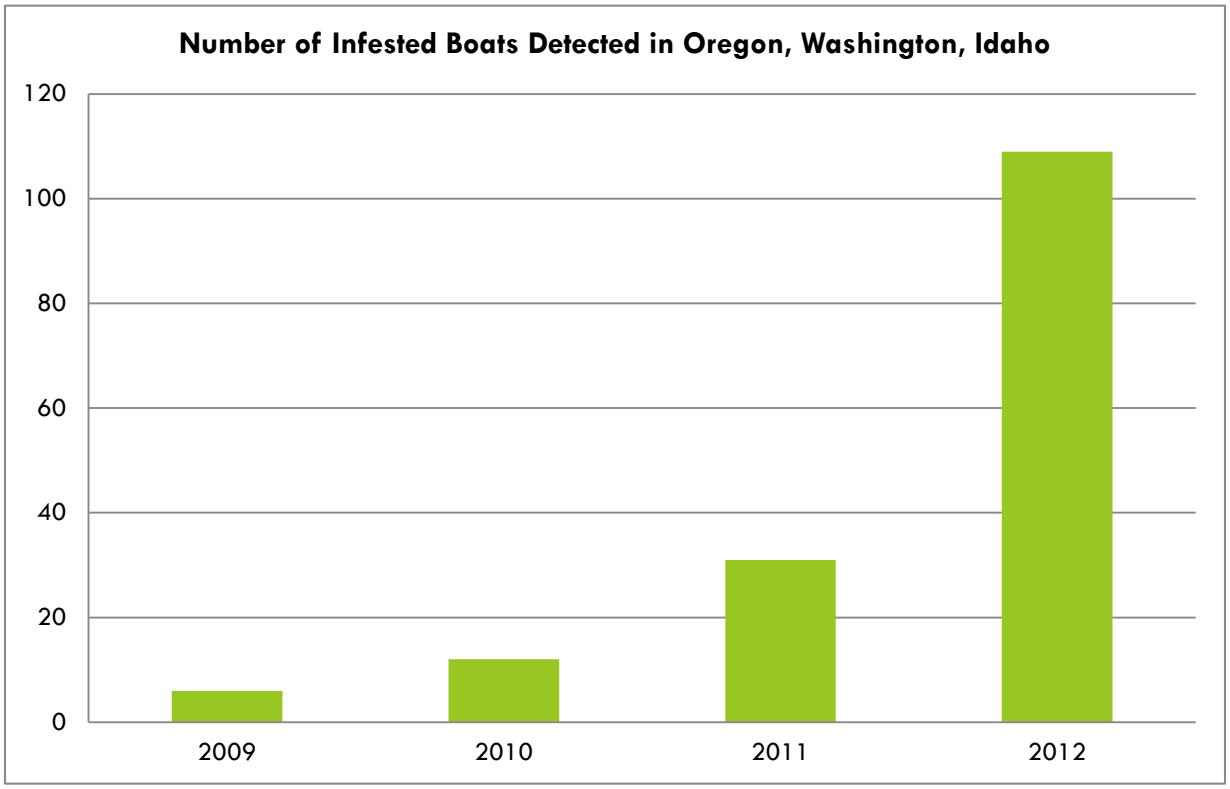
Working to Strengthen Federal Policy on Invasive Species

Last year, the council worked closely with other western states and regional organizations to highlight the need for source control at federally-managed waters. In particular, the council has asked the National Park Service and U.S. Department of Interior to implement a mandatory inspection and decontamination program for moored watercraft at Lake Mead, which is in Nevada and Arizona. The reason this is so important to Oregon, Washington, and Idaho is because most of boats infested with quagga mussels coming into the northwest states (Figure 2) have originated in Lake Mead and infested waters on the lower Colorado River. Without control at the source of the infestation, as is done with chemical pollution, each state has to spend millions of dollars to intercept these contaminated boats. As a result of the advocacy from the West, a $1 million, one-time appropriation was provided for inspecting and decontaminating moored boats on Lake Mead and other infested waters on the lower Colorado River. It was a good start.

This year, the council's federal work has continued. The council has asked for the listing of quagga mussels as an injurious species under the Lacey Act (only zebra mussels currently are listed) and inclusion of invasive species provisions in the Water Resources Development Act. The council also has continued educating Washington's congressional delegates on invasive species issues in the West. In November, council staff was invited by Congressmen Mike Thompson (CA) and Dan Benishek (MI) to present on western invasive species threats at a meeting of the Congressional Invasive Species Caucus. Included in the presentation were requests for stronger policy direction on preventing infested boats

from leaving federally-managed water bodies (such as Lakes Mead and Havasu in Nevada and Arizona, respectively) and increased funding to states for more on-the-ground prevention efforts (e.g., keeping boat inspection stations open longer throughout the year, providing for additional inspection stations).

Figure 2. Infested Boats Detected in Pacific Northwest States



Critical Element 2: Discovering New Threats

Creating a Pilot Program for Early Detection of Invasive Species in Puget Sound

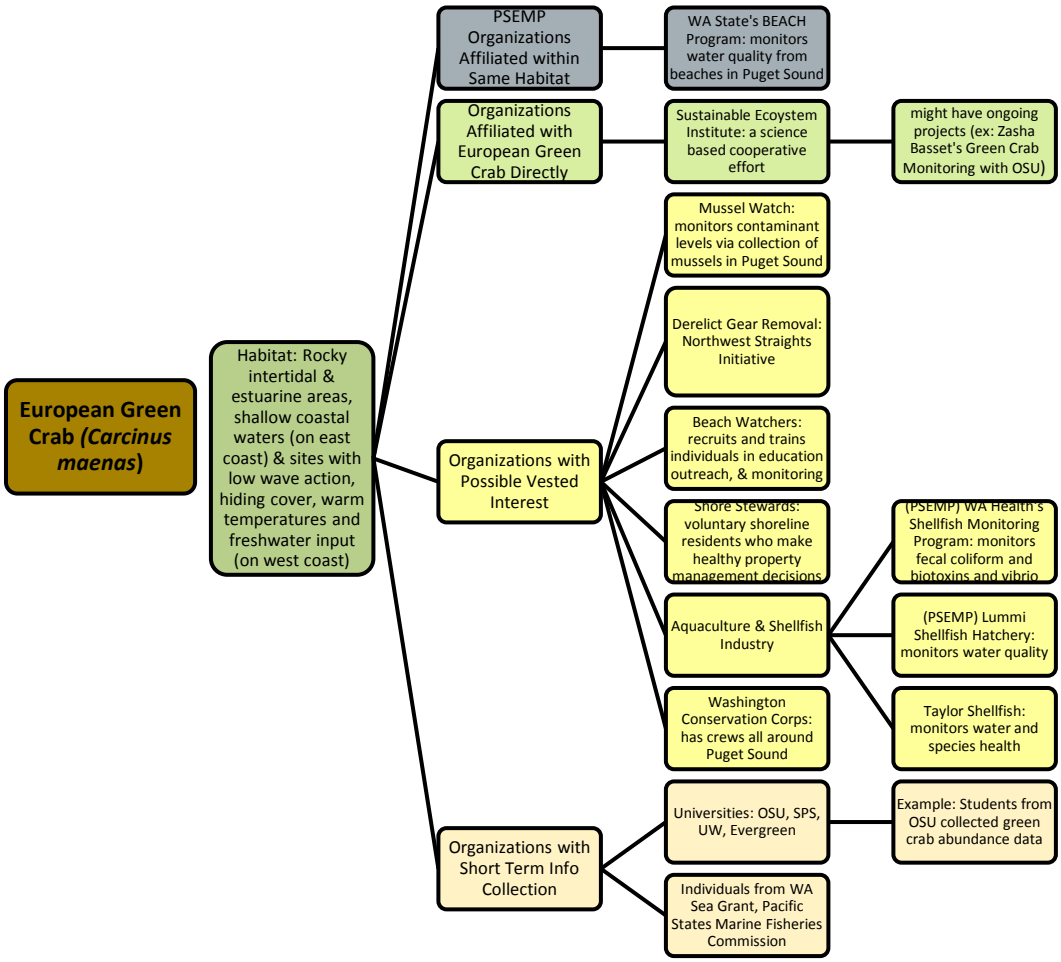
To enhance rapid response to an introduction and spread of invasive species in the Puget Sound, the council developed a pilot early warning system to detect five high-risk invasive species in Puget Sound. This project implemented the near-term action, B5.3 NTA 2, Invasive Species Early Detection and Monitoring, in the *2012 Puget Sound Action Agenda*.

The basic idea was to join forces with organizations and agency programs already present and working in Puget Sound for other purposes, such as salmon recovery or derelict fishing gear removal, and provide them with resources so they also could look for certain invasive species. Rather than creating an entirely new invasive species monitoring program, and lacking the funds to do so, the council recognized an opportunity for coordination and collaboration with existing efforts.

Five species were selected for the project, representing an array of taxonomic groups and species known to threaten both ecological health and economic interests in the Puget Sound. The species are

European green crab, Asian kelp, invasive knotweed such as Japanese and giant knotweed, invasive tunicates, and New Zealand mud snail. Once the species were identified, the council worked closely with the Puget Sound Assessment and Monitoring Program to identify existing monitoring programs. A flow chart (Figure 3) for each species was made to help us illustrate the potential opportunities for collaboration and to keep us organized.

Figure 3: A sample flow chart



Contacts were made with these and other organizations and the request made to incorporate invasive species into their work. Many organizations were enthusiastic about the idea, and the council worked with them to provide resources and figure out the best path forward. These organizations will provide any invasive species data to the council beginning next year.

Table 2 shows the list of organizations with which the council currently is working.

Table 2: Organizations Participating in Early Detection of Invasive Species

Species	Organizations Participating in Invasive Species Detection
European Green Crab	Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Northwest Straits Derelict Gear Removal Program SeaDoc Society, Salish Sea Expeditions
Asian Kelp	Washington Scuba Alliance, Reef Environmental Education Foundation, SeaDoc Society, Puget Soundkeepers Alliance, Salish Sea Expeditions, Northest Marine Trade Association
Invasive Tunicates	Washington Scuba Alliance, REEF, SeaDoc Society, Puget Soundkeepers Alliance, Salish Sea Expeditions, Northwest Marine Trade Association
New Zealand Mud Snails	SeaDoc Society, Salish Sea Expeditions, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Shell Club, Puget Sound Stream Benthos Coordinating Group
Japanese Knotweed	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Weed Watchers in King County, Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council, SeaDoc Society, Salish Sea Expeditions, Pacific Northwest Salmon Center, U.S. Forest Service

Watching for an Invasion of Feral Pigs in Washington

Feral pigs, one of the council's priority species, are highly destructive and potentially dangerous animals. Biologists describe feral pigs as any swine not confined in fences. Their spread is blamed for an estimated $1.5 billion worth of damage to crops, wildlife, and the environment in the United States. These pigs also carry diseases that pose a threat to livestock and humans, including swine brucellosis and pseudorabies.

Oregon wildlife officials estimate that as many as 5,000 wild pigs are roaming throughout Oregon, most having migrated from California where there is estimated to be 70,000 pigs. In Idaho, biologists are working to eradicate a small population in the Bruneau Valley. There are no known established populations in Washington, though individual feral pigs have been reported over the years.

The states of Oregon, Idaho, and Washington joined forces in 2012 to raise awareness about the threat wild pigs pose to the waterways and natural resources of the Pacific Northwest and to monitor the presence of pigs in each state. A free telephone number was established to report sightings of wild pigs and educate landowners.

While numerous pig reports have come in from Oregon, no pigs have been reported in Washington. If and when a feral pig is detected here, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife officers will be alerted and take necessary action.

Improving Invasive Species Reporting

In 2009, the council created a reporting hotline, **1-877-9-INFEST**, and an online reporting form to enlist the public in taking action. Over the years this is has been a well-used resource, with hundreds of reports made. However, with the current system, species verification has proven difficult because there are very few photographs submitted with the reports. Several follow up e-mails are required to attain photos, but most of time they are just not available. The council took action this year to both reach a broader audience and improve the quality of the information provided in the reports by creating a reporting app. The app, called 'WA Invasives,' will enhance the data reported on invasive species by automatically taking a Global Positioning System location and allowing for easy uploading of photographs. Reports that have been verified by state and federal agency experts will be put on a map and made available to all. The app is free and available for iPhones and Android phones.

IS THE COUNCIL MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

In addition to the policy and project work of the council, this year, in particular, the coordinating role of the council lead to some significant accomplishments from individual council member agencies.

1. The most notable and far-reaching work this year has come from the Washington State Department of Transportation, as described above, in which it created a system to alert enforcement officers on incoming commercially-hauled boats and is modifying its contracts and vegetation maintenance operations to include prevention protocols for aquatic invasive species. Before being on the council, the Department of Transportation had been proactive in its roadside vegetation maintenance program addressing noxious weeds but hadn't identified opportunities to take it beyond that. It was through participation on the council that the department was able to see the potential for prevention of other invasive species and, through strong leadership within the agency, make it happen.

2. Another member agency that made large strides forward on the invasive species front is the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. This federal agency had not been inspecting for zebra or quagga mussels at border stations on the U.S.-Canadian border because the legal authority to do so lies with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Some questions asked of the border protection agency by council members led to internal discussions within the boarder protection agency. The agency worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to figure out a way to overcome the authority hurdle and developed protocols for boat inspections. More than 30 border protection agency and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff now have been trained on the new protocols, which have been put in place at all border stations along the U.S.-Canadian border between Washington and Minnesota.

As a whole, the council continues to make progress towards its primary purpose – to foster strategic, unified, and coordinated approaches to minimize the harmful effects of invasive species. The best way to do that is to continue making investments in prevention, however small and incremental they seem,

so that Washington is not faced with expensive, and possibly ineffective, control efforts. Small investments made today have the power to give huge returns in the future that result in healthy citizens, economy, and environment. The council is working hard to ensure that the investments it makes today will prevent Washington from paying a steep price in the future.