

## WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2023

Natural Resources Building, Room 172, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA, 98501

### **Invasive Species Council Members Present:**

---

Blain Reeves, Chair	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Todd Murray, Vice Chair	Washington State University
Joe Maroney, Past Chair	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Greg Haubrich	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Mary Fee	Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Marcie Clement	Avista Utilities
Adam Fyall	Benton County
Steven Burke	King County
Jay Jennings	Northwest Marine Trade Associates
Stacy Horton	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Jason Anderson	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Mary Braswell	United States Customs and Border Protection
Yolanda Inguanzo	United States Department of Agriculture
Heidi McMaster	United States Department of the Interior
Carrie Cook-Tabor	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Karen Ripley	United States Forest Service
Greg Haubrich	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Lizbeth Seebacher	Washington State Department of Ecology
Allen Pleus	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ray Willard	Washington State Department of Transportation
Andrea Thorpe, Ph.D.	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

### **Guests & Alternates:**

---

Erika Rubenson, Ph.D.	Four Peaks Environmental Science and Data Solutions
Stas Burgiel, Ph.D.	National Invasive Species Council
Anthony Capetillo	Nez Perce Tribe
Alexei Calambokidis	Washington Council of Trout Unlimited
Sven-Erik Spichiger	Washington State Department of Agriculture (Alternate)
Shawn Ultican	Washington State Department of Ecology
Captain Eric Anderson	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jesse Schultz	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Nam Siu	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

### **Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:**

---

Justin Bush	Executive Coordinator
Julia McNamara	Board Liaison
Maria Marlin	Outreach and Education Specialist
Jessica La Belle	Invasive Species Program Specialist
Megan Montgomery	Board and Policy Administrative Assistant

## Welcome and Call to Order

**Chair Blain Reeves** called the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison performed roll call, determining quorum and noted that Member Lieutenant Commander Alex Mostrom was absent. Member Joe Maroney arrived in person and Member Steve Burke arrived online around 9:05 a.m.

**Motion:** Approval of June 15, 2023, Agenda

**Moved by:** Member **Carrie Cook-Tabor**

**Seconded by:** Member **Allen Pleus**

**Decision:** Approved

**Motion:** Approval of March 23, 2023, Meeting Minutes

**Moved by:** Member **Allen Pleus**

**Seconded by:** Member **Mary Fee**

**Decision:** Approved

## Item 1: Council Staff Report and New Staff Introductions

**Justin Bush**, WISC Executive Coordinator, began his report by highlighting the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Don't Let it Loose tailgate wrap, noting that the website on the wrap goes to the council's website, illustrating a visual partnership and emphasizing the value of the council working together.

Council staff was involved in eighteen events since the last meeting. Mr. Bush spoke about the Incident Command System (ICS) 300 Course, an intermediate ICS course, in April, and emphasized the partnerships between the Department of Corrections (DOC), Washington State Military (MIL), Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and WDFW in hosting this event at a Department of Enterprise Services (DES) training facility.

Mr. Bush suggested that the council invite partners from Washington State University (WSU) and US Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to the September meeting to provide a presentation on the topics discussed at the different tribal invasive species workshops and webinars. **Member Maroney** and **Member Anderson** supported this idea, and it was noted to add this to the September agenda. Additionally, Mr. Bush recommended that the council add Municipal Urban Forest Pest Readiness to a future agenda.

Mr. Bush highlighted a globally attended Invasive Snail and Slug Virtual Workshop which brought international experts from around the world to speak about invasive

snails and slugs. Information and specific presentations from this workshop can be found on the [council's website](#), and the full recording is available on [RCO's YouTube channel](#). In response to **Chair Reeves** asking whether there are any invasive slugs or snails in Washington, Mr. Bush shared that there are some present in Washington and across the US that could spread to other areas, like the vineyard snail (*Ceratomyxa virgata*) in Tacoma. Specifically, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is concerned about the *Arion vulgaris* slug in Canada. The USDA has made specific recommendations to Canada and Mr. Bush encouraged the council to look into this threat. **Member Clement** asked about the Chinese mystery snails found in Idaho. Maria Marlin shared that they were not discussed at the Slug and Snail Workshop; however, this can be focused on in the future.

The thirty-second Pacific Northwest Economic Regions (PNWER) Annual Summit will be held in Boise, Idaho July 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> and will include the Transboundary Feral Swine Summit with the sessions discussing cross-border livestock health, feral swine threat management, aquatic invasive species, and a feral swine technical assistance workshop and policy tour.

Mr. Bush shared a news release put together by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks), Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (NWCB), RCO, DNR, and the council encouraging the public to clean their gear and pets to prevent the spread of noxious spring plants. **Chair Reeves** encouraged council members to share news releases like this with their agencies to spread awareness. Council social media saw a slight increase in page likes and followers during this quarter; however, overall engagement has decreased across platforms. Mr. Bush noted that this is primarily due to changes in social media shifting to boosting promoted posts. Council staff will be working on a strategy to boost engagement across platforms. The council website had 21,365 users between March 2nd and June 1<sup>st</sup>, these metrics will be reported at meetings going forward.

Mr. Bush updated the council on the Squeal on Pigs campaign, which includes a mobile app translated in French and Spanish, where users across the US and Canada can report feral swine. Jessica La Belle will be presenting the State Feral Swine Rapid Response Plan at a future meeting.

Mr. Bush highlighted an upcoming project led by Ms. Marlin aimed at protecting Washington's sagebrush biome through prevention activities and public behavior change as part of the [PlayCleanGo](#) campaign. This project will undergo a council-

facilitated stakeholder process to determine the location of fifty boot-brush stations that will include interpretive signage with maintenance supplies and handheld brushes.

Mr. Bush will be moving into a new role at the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) as the Aquatic Invasive Species Policy Coordinator, where he will represent WDFW on the council. Mr. Bush highlighted some of his favorite memories and accomplishments from his time as the Executive Coordinator of the Washington Invasive Species Council-- from appearing in the news discussing various invasive species, to being part of the Western Governors Association, to forming lasting friendships.

**BREAK: 9:45 AM – 10:05 AM**

**Item 2: A NiMiiPuu Perspective and Nez Perce Tribe Aquatic Invasive Species Program**

**Anthony Capetillo**, Nez Perce Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Biologist, provided a NiMiiPuu perspective on AIS, loss of cultural resources, and shared work being done by the tribe to recover and protect these resources. Mr. Capetillo emphasized how the loss of cultural resources leads to the loss of traditional practices, cultural experiences, species interactions and relationships, and language and has led to Indigenous communities showing higher rates of heart disease and diabetes, a lower life expectancy, and an increase in mental health issues.

The first step towards regaining food sovereignty and establishing healthier communities is considering the impacts AIS have on the health of waterways. Poor water quality has far-reaching impacts on cultural aspects and resources that the NiMiiPuu rely upon. In 2021, the NiMiiPuu started an AIS project aimed at protecting food sovereignty by recovering salmon, Pacific lamprey, and steelhead, through funding provided by the BIA. The Pacific lamprey is used as the first indicator of water health. If there are no Pacific lamprey present due to poor water quality, then there is no indicator to show that there is anything wrong. The contaminant can then spread, impacting the natural resources and causing the NiMiiPuu to need to search on a broader scale to find resources used in their cultural practices.

In the NiMiiPuu cultural teachings, the original species gave themselves to the people so that the NiMiiPuu could live and survive. It is the obligation of the people to protect the plant and animal species and to speak on their behalf. Plants are used as traditional medicines, in ceremonies and name-givings, and relied upon for connection. Harvesting cultural resources requires different tools, practices, and methods of processing

throughout the year, and losing access to cultural resources could mean a loss of access to traditional ways of knowing and means of survival.

Before the treaties with the federal government, the NiMiiPuu had 17 million acres of homeland, where every geographical feature had a name tied to experiences, knowledge, and the resources found there. The treaties decreased the NiMiiPuu land to 750,000 acres. Today, the tribe only owns around thirteen percent of this land. This homeland loss led to immense loss of cultural experiences, family history, and resources. Additionally, removal from the land causes a loss of species-to-species and human-to-species interactions and relationships, which the environmental balance relies on. For example, anadromous species provide nutrients that feed plants, helping them grow three times faster than they would without the species present. The NiMiiPuu have started work with translocating and reintroducing anadromous species after realizing the importance of these relationships to keep the land healthy and growing, and for their culture to continue to grow and evolve with the land.

The NiMiiPuu natural resources department is participating in outplants when there are excess eggs in hatcheries, monitoring of adult and juvenile salmon and steelhead to determine survival rates and get a better understanding of populations, restoration work, and educating and collaborating with agencies and people in Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Wyoming. There are several acclimation sites along the Clearwater River and Snake River and the NiMiiPuu have released nearly 14 million salmonids this year; however, less than one percent of these fish will return. It is estimated that over 860,000 sub-yearling salmonids could be lost to smallmouth bass predation between upper Hells Canyon and lower Granite Dam each year, and walleye account for nearly one third of annual predation loss in the Columbia River. Although a “gauntlet” of dams, climate conditions, and AIS in these areas threaten the work being done, the tribe remains focused on supporting fish in their migration to the ocean and journey back by monitoring known AIS in the area and watching for potential environmental triggers that could lead to AIS establishing populations.

Mr. Capetillo emphasized that these cultural impacts are not just tribal issues, they affect all people. Everyone is connected to the land in some way, whether it is hunting and fishing, recreating outdoors, or tourism, and everyone should focus on protecting the land for themselves and future generations.

**Member Jennings** asked if there is any way to estimate how the “gauntlet” is impacting the return of endangered species. Mr. Capetillo shared that recent funding would go

towards establishing a resource to house information on what is happening with the populations.

**Member Willard** suggested the council play a role in sharing this information more broadly. Mr. Capetillo was supportive.

**Member Maroney** asked if there were any potential actions being taken by the Nez Perce Tribe in dealing with small mouth bass or walleye, noting that there has been a fifteen-fold increase in the consumption of juvenile chinook. The Nez Perce/NiMiiPuu have considered removing male bass off nests, hosting fishing derbies, and offering reward or bounty programs. Member Maroney invited Mr. Capetillo to connect with him on how the Colville Tribe dealt with northern pike in Washington.

**Member Pleus** asked how the state and council should pass down the story of invasive species. Mr. Capetillo answered that connecting with your past is the best way to share what you did, how you did it, and why you did it the way you did, for better understanding in younger generations.

**Chair Reeves** noted that the council is committed to working with staff and incorporating these Indigenous ideas and concepts in its evaluation of prioritized invasives.

### **Item 3: Update on the National Invasive Species Council and Invasive Species Advisory Committee**

**Doctor Stas Burgiel** provided background information on the [National Invasive Species Council](#) (NISC), which was established in 1999 by Executive Order (EO) 13112 to raise awareness of invasive species. It was updated in 2016 as EO 13751, shifting efforts from education and outreach to implementation. Both EOs require that NISC activities are guided by management plans and, since 2020, the council has created annual work plans to better identify priorities. NISC's mission is to provide the vision and national leadership to coordinate efforts around invasive species across federal agencies.

Dr. Burgiel explained the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 work plan priorities, which are categorized by core coordination and thematic priority activities. To address climate change, NISC developed the Federal Community of Practice (CoP) to discuss range shifts, management frameworks, direct connections to wildlife, disease, and human health. NISC is investing heavily in the connections between wildland fires and invasive species, which is reflected by their partnership with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC).

Additionally, NISC has been working on developing a national framework for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) with a particular focus on addressing capacity needs and integrating NISC's past outputs on EDRR. In 2022, NISC released two rapid response papers: [Rapid Response Fund: Criteria and Considerations for Establishment](#) and [Federal Agency Roles](#).

Within the workplan, NISC plans to work with agencies to identify potential species of concern, emerging pathways of introduction, and geographical hotspots for invasion through forecasting and horizon scanning.

**Member Lizbeth Seebacher**, Department of Ecology, was recently appointed to the [Invasive Species Advisory Committee](#) (ISAC), which was established by the same EO that established NISC. After being deactivated in 2019, ISAC was reestablished in 2021 and has held the purpose of providing advice to support implementation of NISC's mandate or mission.

The newly appointed ISAC members met virtually for the first time in March 2023 with presentations on funding and EDRR updates. ISAC members decided the top three invasive species priorities to be addressed at a national level by NISC would include: national priorities, climate change, and underserved communities. Subcommittees were created to address each.

**Chair Reeves** noted the importance of figuring out how the state and national councils can stay connected. Dr. Burgiel shared that NISC has someone serving as a liaison for states and tribes as well as two white papers from 2017 focused on coordinating efforts, [Enhancing Federal-Tribal Coordination of Invasive Species](#) and [Strengthening Federal-State Coordination](#).

**Member Maroney** asked if NISC anticipates revisiting the 2017 white paper recommendations, and how NISC plans to follow through with them. Dr. Burgiel answered that some recommendations are advancing, while some are more challenging, such as retaining permanent staff. Member Maroney asked if there was any conversation between NISC and USFWS surrounding the regulatory burden of protecting Endangered Species Act (ESA) species and managing invasive species. Dr. Burgiel noted that NISC's task force has USFWS representation, and that conversation is happening to inform how NISC can respond to invasive species while being mindful of ESA conservation.

**Chair Reeves** would like to have updates from Member Seebacher and will work on developing a schedule that aligns with ISAC meetings.

#### **Item 4: Washington State Northern Pike Response Plan**

**Jesse Schultz**, WDFW Prevention Lead, provided an update on the Northern Pike Rapid Response Plan for Washington State and gave special thanks to Holly McLone for her pivotal work in developing the plan, along with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and Four Peaks Consulting. Funding for the plan was provided through a vacant position and now that the plan is nearly complete, WDFW is working to fill that position, which will be responsible for leading decontamination trainings and protocols.

The plan's public comment period ended Monday, June 12. The plan should be finalized and distributed by July 2023. Developing this plan highlighted the need to further develop and secure funding for additional AIS plans and update the zebra/quagga mussel rapid response plan, which is over ten years old.

**Doctor Erika Rubenson**, Four Peaks Environmental Science and Data Solutions Senior Scientist, provided an overview of the Northern Pike Rapid Response Plan. The plan's purpose is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of northern pike prevention, efforts, detection, early response, and long-term management activities with the stated goals of minimizing the probability of further northern pike invasion in Washington.

The plan provides an overview of the Incident Command System (ICS), a brief history of northern pike in Washington state, and definitions for waterbody classifications. Additionally, there are key topics that have been divided into three main topics with actionable items:

- 1) Prevention and early detection – prevention, routine monitoring, and detection verification.
- 2) Rapid response activities – establish ICS, sampling and data collection, and Multi Agency Coordination (MAC) Group meeting.
- 3) Extended response activities – eradication, containment, and long-term management.

Additional plan components include fish sampling guidelines, table of entities with fisheries management responsibilities, public outreach examples, eDNA monitoring locations, data collection worksheets, taxonomic keying characteristics, template notification letters, and a MAC Group meeting data summary form.

Members of the council commended the work done in this plan, noting it can serve as a template to be applied across other AIS and ICS situations.



**Member Burke** asked about northern pike in Lake Washington. Mr. Schultz noted that WDFW is aware of the situation and monitoring Lake Washington for northern pike and additional AIS.

**Member Maroney** asked if WDFW is preparing for the next ICS situation regarding jurisdiction. Mr. Schultz answered that the state will assist the local jurisdiction, which is addressed in the plan. **Member Pleus** noted that practicing these plans is instrumental, and funding for practice is of importance.

### **Item 5: OsHV-1 Update and Safeguard Our Shellfish**

**Nam Siu**, WDFW Biologist and Shellfish Permits Coordinator, provided an update on work being done by the WDFW Shellfish and Seaweed Health and Biosecurity Unit. This team is responsible for overseeing shellfish and seaweed movement into and throughout Washington State and to protect marine ecosystems from accidental spread of pathogens and pest species through permitting, compliance inspections, surveillance, collaboration, and outreach and education, such as the Safeguard Our Shellfish campaign.

The Salish Sea is home to over 3,000 species of invertebrates, some of which hold significant economic and cultural value. To enhance and diversify the aquaculture industry, Washington has historically introduced non-native shellfish species--most notably the Pacific oyster from Japan, which has successfully established and is the most widely cultivated oyster in Washington--however, pests and disease, like Ostreid Herpesvirus-1 (OsHV-1) have been discovered in association with these introductions.

OsHV-1 is a marine-based DNA virus that infects the connective tissue cells and is believed to be the causative agent for Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) and Summer Seed Mortality (SSM). Mr. Siu emphasized that this virus does not affect human health.

A microvariant of OsHV-1 was detected in France in 2008 and is associated with massive mortalities of all life stages of oysters, resulting in a fifty to one-hundred percent loss of any given stock. Additionally, mortality is rapid, and the virus lacks host-specificity, giving it the potential to infect numerous species of marine invertebrates. Since its discovery in 2008, this microvariant has been detected globally and is the primary variant.

Pacific oysters are most impacted by OsHV-1 with some places on the west coast showing an eighty percent prevalence at a given site. Death can occur in as little as three days from the time of initial infection. Larvae or seed oysters are most affected by

disease-related mortality, causing SSM. OsHV-1 can also affect multiple native and commercially important shellfish, such as the Manila clam.

Mr. Siu emphasized that OsHV-1 can be present without showing any overt signs in shellfish, and it can exist sub-clinically for some time before it is detected due to its lack of host specificity. There are at least seven other bivalve species that can act as a host, as well as European green crab. The virus spreads horizontally from species to species and can live outside of a host for two to twenty days in the water. Some research indicates that OsHV-1 can be transmitted vertically, from parent to offspring.

Environmental stress is a key factor in a pathogen's ability to cause disease. OsHV-1 can exist sub-clinically until it is triggered by an environmental cue, like a change in temperature. Mr. Siu shared that in Europe, mortality is observed beginning at sixteen degrees Celsius and up to twenty-six degrees Celsius, noting that it is not uncommon for bodies of water in Washington to experience elevated temperatures of around twenty degrees Celsius.

OsHV-1 is confirmed in nineteen countries with the microvariant present in at least thirteen. OsHV-1 has been present in the US since its detection on the east coast in the 1970s and has been on the west coast in California since at least the 1990s, where it is currently limited to three bays. In warmer temperature seasons, mortality in California has reached up to ninety percent seed mortality. Of concern, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved import of shellfish from European Union (EU) countries known to have OsHV-1. Both live and frozen shellfish have been identified as pathways of shellfish disease. In addition to OsHV-1 there are several other mollusk and shellfish diseases listed by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) that are present in EU countries.

Washington is currently free from these listed diseases and the potential importation of EU shellfish represents a potential pathway. WDFW is focused on preventing the arrival of OsHV-1 and other shellfish diseases to Washington waters through regulating shellfish importation and movement within Washington state, working with the industry to strengthen biosecurity in their facilities (quarantine and water treatment requirements), and providing outreach and education to the public to prevent and reduce other potential introductory pathways.

Since the 2018 council update on OsHV-1, WDFW has updated import requirements to include PCR testing for the virus, increased field presence and enforcement efforts; implemented response sampling on some shellfish mortality events; collaborated with researchers in the industry and other regulatory agencies on biosecurity workshops,

response plan development, and surveillance and monitoring; and increased their outreach and public education efforts. WDFW has also obtained additional funding in 2022 to increase the team's capacity.

WDFW will continue to train new staff in shellfish disease management, develop additional lab and microbiology capacity, develop a seaweed health toolbox, create a website and online permitting system, and develop a surveillance program and formal response plans. The council can help by continuing to increase awareness through public outreach, support research on OsHV-1 and other shellfish diseases and support the concept of disease issues as invasive species issues.

**Member McMaster** asked if aquaculture settings are more at risk than native habitat. Mr. Siu answered that WDFW works closely with aquaculture partners, who are aware of these threats, and would like to work with the council to bridge gaps.

### **Item 6: Recognition of Justin Bush and Next Steps for the Washington Invasive Species Council**

**Chair Reeves** formally recognized **Justin Bush** through a resolution, which he read aloud and was signed by himself and **Vice Chair Murray**.

RCO staff **Jessica La Belle**, **Maria Marlin**, and **Brock Milliern** all spoke about working with Mr. Bush and his accomplishments while serving as the Executive Coordinator.

Members of the council took turns relaying their favorite memories and wishing Mr. Bush well in his new endeavor as WDFW's AIS Policy Coordinator.

### **LUNCH: 12:17 – 1:10 PM**

### **Item 7: Watercraft Inspections and Invasive Mussel Interceptions Update**

**Captain Eric Anderson** provided a brief update on the 2023 WDFW AIS Watercraft Inspection Program. In 2022, the program operated five check stations with 1,412 operational days where a crew of around twenty inspected 51,942 watercraft and detected twenty-five mussel boats.

The 2023 program will have five check stations located around the state. Captain Anderson noted the challenge in finding a location for a static checkpoint for their Ridgefield pilot project. **Member Willard** offered to have a conversation with Captain Anderson to discuss finding a location in Ridgefield fit for a static check station.

Captain Anderson shared the statistics of each check station, focusing on the number of inspections, zebra/quagga mussel boats, and full decontaminations.

Inspection Statistics			
Location	Inspections	Zebra/Quagga Mussel Boats	Full Decontaminations
Spokane	4,788	9	9
Pasco	2,120	2	2
Cle Elum	2,470	1	1
Ridgefield	1,930	0	0
Clarkston	192	1	1

Captain Anderson noted the new location for the Clarkston check station at the former Chief Timothy Interpretive Center that is set to open in July. This location utilizes existing structures located directly off Highway Twelve.

**Member Cook-Tabor** asked what types of boats are required to stop at the check stations. Captain Anderson clarified that all water vessels are required to stop, including kayaks, with fines associated for non-compliance, adding that in Spokane, they have an eighty-five to ninety percent compliance rate.

**Member Pleus** commented that these stations check for more than zebra/quagga mussels and shared his appreciation for them.

**Justin Bush** asked if there have been boats coming from known California zebra/quagga mussel water bodies. Captain Anderson answered that the Interstate Five and Clarkston check stations catch many from California.

### **Item 8: The Mission of Trout Unlimited and Membership on the Washington Invasive Species Council**

**Alexei Calambokidis, Washington Conservation Manager at Trout Unlimited, shared why he would like a seat on the council. Mr. Calambokidis believes that representation of a non-government organization could be beneficial to the council and that together, the council and Trout Unlimited could play a large role in public outreach. Motion:** Move to add Washington Council of Trout Unlimited to the Washington Invasive Species Council

**Moved by:** Member **Ray Willard**

**Seconded by:** Member **Andrea Thorpe**

**Decision:** Approved

### *General Public Comment*

None.

Member McNatt was absent from online from 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM

**BREAK: 1:36 PM – 1:50 PM**

Member Jennings left the remainder of the meeting during the break.

**Item 9: European Green Crab Update and State Fiscal Year 2023 Funding**

**Member Allen Pleus** provided an update on the European Green Crab (EGC) emergency response. The incident objectives are to facilitate WDFW in implementing the Governor's Emergency Proclamation and state legislative funding directives; ensure the health and safety of all participants; reduce or contain EGC populations below levels that result in environmental, economic, and cultural resource harm; and provide collaborative and transparent emergency management, and post-emergency transition to long-term EGC management by local tribal co-managers and partners with WDFW oversight. These objectives are made possible through a cooperative management strategy with multiple jurisdictions (state, tribal, federal, local government, and private entities), set management priorities and management types, operational complexities, resource capacities, protecting sensitive habitats and species, and aquaculture operations.

Member Pleus shared the successes to-date that began with the Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, and Shoalwater Bay Tribe issuing EGC disaster/emergency declarations in 2021-2022, which led to Governor Jay Inslee issuing the EGC Emergency Proclamation 22-02, in January of 2022. Washington State Legislature then allocated \$8.5 million in emergency measures funding for the 2021-22 biennium, with an ongoing combined \$8 million per year dedicated to EGC. In April of 2022, WDFW created an ICS, and Member Pleus was appointed as the Incident Commander. In 2022, there was quick planning and logistics, and operations were ramped up state-wide, resulting in the capture of significant numbers of EGC.

There is ongoing policy and technical collaboration with tribal co-managers and partner organizations, along with ongoing transparency in public communication and outreach efforts and implementation of the FY 2023 EGC Emergency Measure Strategic Action Plan, as well as continued trapping for EGC over the winter months and increased efforts heading into the summer season.

Member Pleus shared a breakdown of EGC catch numbers between the management branches as of May 28, 2023. The Salish Sea Branch has caught 3,166; the Coastal Branch

has caught 61,910; and statewide there have been 65,076 total EGC caught. The overall total of EGC caught since 2021 is over 454,570. Notably, there was a large increase in captures in the Coastal Branch from 2021 to 2022. Member Pleus shared that there was low recruitment of young of the year last year, which could have been aided by the climate, and a cold spring last year.

Member Pleus described the 2023-2025 biennium funding, which equates to \$12,713,780 total direct funding and breaks down to \$6,356,890 per year. These funds will be allocated to WDFW AIS Prevention, RCO, Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Washington Sea Grant, and the Department of Ecology, noting that seventy-two percent is from pass-through funding.

<b>Working Draft: EGC FY 23-25 Budget – Direct Funds</b>					
<b>Entity</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
WDFW AIS Prevention	ICS Response	\$1,860,890	\$1,860,890	\$3,721,780	30%
RCO	MAC Coord/ Facilitation	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	2%
RCO	EM IAA <sup>1</sup> and Coastal Fund	\$1,471,000	\$1,471,000	\$2,942,00	24%
Lummi Nation	Control/ Assessment	\$1,460,000	\$1,460,000	\$2,920,000	23%
Makah Tribe	Control/ Assessment	\$475,000	\$475,000	\$950,000	8%
Washington Sea Grant	Coordination/ Early Detection	\$670,000	\$670,000	\$1,340,000	11%
Department of Ecology	Coordination/ Control	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$640,000	5%
	Passthrough Total	\$4,496,000	\$4,496,000	\$8,992,000	72%
	<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>\$6,356,890</b>	<b>\$6,356,890</b>	<b>\$12,713,780</b>	

Next steps include continuing emergency measures under the Governor’s Proclamation and developing and implementing the FY 2024 EGC Strategic Action Plan.

Member Pleus noted the press release of the new [EGC Hub](#) dashboard, where partners and the public can report sightings of EGC, and access data and tools associated with the EGC efforts.

---

<sup>1</sup> Emergency Measures Interagency Agreements

On a final note, Member Pleus shared that he will be transitioning his position as the WDFW AIS unit manager and EGC Incident Commander to Justin Bush.

**Member Willard** asked if there was any impact reported from EGC on other species. Member Pleus shared that research has shown that EGC do eat other shellfish but are not necessarily creating impacts, noting that in other parts of the world impacts depend on time and population size, and the goal is to keep EGC populations below that level.

**Chair Reeves** shared that the \$400k provided by the funding Member Pleus discussed allowed DNR to hire a full-time regional coordinator and two techs, begin building a facility, and purchase an airboat and landing craft, as well as manage trap lines. He added that there is low available funding for EGC, and agencies are individually seeking their own funding. It was noted that agencies will be looking to the council for support.

### **Item 10: Spotted Lanternfly Action Plan Update and Invasive Pest Interagency Work Group Concept**

**Jessica La Belle**, Invasive Species Program Specialist, provided an overview on the spotted lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*, before sharing the concept for an invasive pest interagency work group.

SLF is native to China, Bangladesh, and Vietnam and was introduced to South Korea, Japan, and the US, where it is currently found in fourteen states throughout the Midwest and along the east coast. These infestations began with one SLF introduction to Pennsylvania in 2014. A [habitat suitability study](#) was conducted and indicates that most states east of the Rocky Mountains, and along the west coast, specifically in large agricultural areas, have suitable habitat and potential distribution of SLF. In Washington, the Interstate Five corridor and the Columbia River basin are suitable habitats. The primary concern of SLF is as an agricultural pest.

Washington farmers produce over three hundred different commodities, many of which are potential host plants such as grapes, hops, cherries, peaches, apples, almonds, pine and other conifers, hardwoods, and culturally significant ethnobotanicals. On top of the nearly \$4 billion that the top five crops produce annually, Washington accounts for twenty-five percent of US timber product exports and nine percent of US paper products. Additionally, Washington is home to priceless cultural resources, habitat and recreation areas, and communities worth protecting.

SLF can only crawl, jump, or fly for short distances, but they are stealthy hitchhikers in all life stages. Ms. La Belle noted that although known infestations are limited to the eastern US, dead specimens have been found in California and Oregon. Adults are small

and lay well-camouflaged egg masses on smooth, often man-made surfaces, such as cars. Ms. La Belle shared a map of the US rail system, noting that the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has found that SLF are moving on rail cars, making it possible for them to arrive in Washington from the east coast in under a week.

Ms. La Belle emphasized the need for help from the public and explained “See It, Snap It, Report It,” where members of the public can report sightings of SLF by noting the location and including a photo in their report. Reports can be made by emailing [PestProgram@agr.wa.gov](mailto:PestProgram@agr.wa.gov), through the [WA Invasives app](#), or by calling 800-443-6684 to reach the Washington State Department of Agriculture’s Pest Hotline.

The council received a \$90,000 grant from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA APHIS PPQ) to for SLF preparedness. The SLF Preparedness Advisory Group was created, which Ms. La Belle facilitates and is made up of state, federal, and tribal partners, as well as industry stakeholders. This funding is also being used to develop the Washington State Spotted Lanternfly Action Plan, mapping tools for responding to SLF, such as mapping Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), a known host plant; potential pathways like rail yards, highways, and campgrounds; farms with known host-crops; and at-risk communities.

In addition to workshops, the advisory group held a [webinar](#) on June 5 to discuss the SLF State Action Plan. The plan covers different ways Washington can prepare for SLF, like early detection and rapid response, education and outreach, Tree-of-Heaven monitoring, and more. This plan is unique as it will focus on both the economic and the cultural impacts of SLF, as well as culturally significant ethnobotanicals at risk from SLF. These ethnobotanicals include all plants that are culturally significant plants to Indigenous communities, including those used in basket making, traditional medicines, ceremonies, shelters, as well as First Foods.

Ms. La Belle shared insight into the challenges in identifying ethnobotanicals, providing a brief history preceding the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978. This act allowed Indigenous cultures to practice their beliefs and ceremonial practices, which were previously criminalized, creating distrust. Working with RCO cultural resources staff, Ms. La Belle has been conducting a literature review to create a list of culturally significant ethnobotanicals to be used along with a county list to inform agencies which tribes should be contacted when conducting treatments. This list can also be cross-referenced with plants that are known host plants for SLF and can help create a guide for future plant pest emergencies.



The SLF State Action Plan should be complete by July 31, with a public comment period from June 5-19.

Noting that part of the success of the SLF State Action Plan is due to the cooperation of multiple agencies, Ms. La Belle suggested developing an Invasive Pest Interagency Work Group through the council, which could include quarterly meetings organized by council staff and cost-shared by organizations. This would minimize the cycle of building contacts for each project or pest that dissolves or lapses once funding expires.

**Alternate Member Spichiger** spoke about the repeated cycle of introductions of new invasive species and forming groups which later dissolve. Routine, quarterly meetings are more effective and efficient than creating new workgroups for each issue. Alternate Member Spichiger supported the idea of quarterly meetings of a working group to be in the practice of responding and knowing what to do and who to call to activate a response.

**Chair Reeves** asked how the work group would function. Ms. La Belle answered that it would function like the SLF Preparedness Advisory Group, where council staff would facilitate while bringing many voices and agencies to the table. **Member Willard** commented that these groups have formed as needed, and this could normalize the process with the advantage of applying the same response model.

**Chair Reeves** asked the council for direction. Members agree there would be a benefit to forming a work group like Ms. La Belle proposed. Chair Reeves directed staff to bring options for a work group to the September meeting.

### **Item 11: Future Meeting Planning Roundtable Discussion**

**Justin Bush** offered a few suggestions for the next meeting:

- Present the EGC Hub tool to the council.
- Recognize Member Pleus.
- Invite BIA and Washington State University to present on tribal workshops and follow-up webinars.
- Have someone from the Kalispel Tribe present on bullfrogs.

Mr. Bush noted that council staff needs to start working with Member Maroney on categories for annual awards during Invasive Species Awareness Week. **Member Maroney** would like to convene a work group to work on this before the September meeting so that recognition could happen in 2024.

**Member Ripley** offered to give a presentation on the Mediterranean oak borer.

**Chair Reeves** decided to wait until Summer of 2024 for a travel meeting.

**Member Willard** shared that roadside preservation funding was not met during legislation and wondered if there is a way to leverage the council's influence to help convince public opinion legislatively. **Chair Reeves** suggested a council-backed press release to inform the public.

*General Public Comment*

None.

**Adjourned at 2:56 PM.**