

From: [Mark Ballo](#)
To: [Lubliner, Nathan \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: Japonica control comment
Date: Friday, February 14, 2014 1:32:02 PM

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to comment on the use of Imazamox to control invasive Japonica on clam and oyster beds.

I hope that the permit is based on the best available science rather sentiment or emotions, because this is immediately important to the shellfish farmers in the Willapa. Japonica does not realize the length of time it takes to receive a permit and has continued to spread unchecked across the bay. Multi-generational farms are at stake and the farmers need a tool to protect their investment as well as in many cases family heritage.

Economically speaking shellfish from the Pacific Northwest are in greater demand than ever. This unfortunately is coming at a time when our farms are shrinking due to invasive species like burrowing shrimp and Japonica encroaching upon the shellfish beds.

While I farm in Grays Harbor I know that it is just a matter of time before Japonica is a problem here too if the State doesn't help to at the very least get this under some sort of control before we are all needing to fight it.

Just think how spartina might have been prevented if someone had the fore thought to not let it get out of control first, I am afraid we have past that stage with Japonica, which is all the more reason to try to take care of this now.

We need as many tools in our tool chest as possible to deal with Japonica and Imazamox appears to be the very best for this purpose.

Thank you,
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