

From: [Rebecca Chaffee](#)
To: [Lubliner, Nathan \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: Comments on the control of Z japonica
Date: Friday, February 14, 2014 4:33:52 PM
Attachments: [Comments on Proposed General Permit for Z. japonica.pdf](#)

Nathan,
The Port of Willapa Harbor would like to submit the attached letter regarding the proposed control of Z. japonica.
Rebecca



COMMISSIONERS

Timothy A. Bond
Patricia L. Lignoski
Larry D. Topping

1725 Ocean Avenue • Raymond, Washington 98577 U.S.A.

February 14, 2014
Rebecca Chaffee, Manager

Mr. Nathan Lubliner
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

RE: Proposed General Permit for *Zostera japonica* Management on Commercial Clam Beds in Willapa Bay.

Dear Mr. Lubliner:

The Port of Willapa Harbor operates marina facilities on Willapa Bay in Raymond, South Bend, Bay Center and Tokeland. These facilities primarily service the Willapa Bay aquaculture industries. This industry is absolutely critical to our local economy.

The Port does not have the in-house expertise to assess the impacts of the use of imazamox or other control alternatives on the bay environment. However, we have watched with alarm the rapid spread of the noxious weed *Zostera japonica* and the corresponding loss of viable clam growing areas in Willapa Bay.

With the control of this noxious weed the commercial clam industry can thrive and expand in Willapa Bay, helping to meet the growing demand for Washington seafood.

We strongly urge the Department of Ecology to issue a general permit for the use of imazamox to control *Zostera japonica*, a simple and reasonable permitting process. We also urge the Department of Ecology to broaden the final permit to cover not just commercial clam beds, but all commercial shellfish beds where *Zostera japonica* is present.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit comments on the proposed General Permit for *Zostera japonica* management in commercial clam beds in Willapa Bay. We also appreciate your prompt and thorough facilitation of this permitting process.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Chaffee, Manager
Port of Willapa Harbor

cc: File

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