

From: [Curt and Karen Stephens](#)
To: [Lubliner, Nathan \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: Eelgrass in Willapa Bay
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2014 5:05:52 PM

Dear Nathan:

I would like to make a short statement regarding spraying the eelgrass in Willapa Bay. I am not a highly educated person, but my daughter (who was raised here on the Long Beach Peninsula) has a degree in marine biology. Her Senior Project mentor in high school was Brent Dumbald. Actually, her Senior Project paper was on the ghost shrimp issue. She lives in Portland Maine now. Anyway, I felt that I could get a pretty good opinion from her regarding this issue. She sent me the "link" to an article by Deborah Shafer, James Kaldy and Jeffrey Gaeckle which was published in Environmental Management. I found the article very interesting. Along with the article she also sent along her opinion of the subject of spraying an herbicide in Willapa Bay. In her mind, the situation is in no way "dire" enough to consider spraying the bay. I have to agree with her, not just because of the fact she is my daughter! I see no reason to EVER spray this beautiful, pristine bay. I understand that the Oyster Growers Association is a very powerful voice and obviously they are an important industry in our state. Our county would be devastated without the oyster farming industry. However, I have to believe that there has to be another answer than potentially harming our bay for generations to come. Can there be another way to help out the oyster growers? Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Stephens

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