

From: [Ross Barkhurst](#)
To: [Hamel, Kathy \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: NPDES for Zostera japonica
Date: Friday, March 09, 2012 3:58:53 PM

My understanding is your dept is the only prayer a self respecting migratory waterfowl has between starvation and life as they know it today. My family is on the edge of Willapa Bay here in Pacific County, WA. The family participates in waterfowl hunting, watching, and appreciation. The retrievers who fetch the ducks are third generation, planning on the fourth. Young grandson will soon be old enough to be the fourth. We have made our own decoys for years. Every year a fresh coat of paint and blinds patched up. We watch the weather, tides, what the birds are eating where and when. We understand the shellfishers want to spray to rid themselves of excess dwarf eelgrass, known as zostera japonica. I have no objection to this on the surface of it. Our oyster bed is not troubled with thick eelgrass problems. It is not so tightly packed that excess waste would cause an overabundance of zj. Maybe intensive overplanting of clams or oysters has something to do with this. They say zj is not native to this area. Neither are the pacific oyster or manila clam. Nothing much is native anymore except the ducks which have adapted to what man has put in front of them fairly well. Native oyster gone. Native littleneck clam gone. Now the shellfishers want to spray the whole bay! What on earth?! Are you going to let this happen? Public hunting and clamming beds sprayed, public hunting ruined. Access is so hard already. The flyway involves three different countries and you are being asked to leave it up to local government which is supposed to know best? They do not call it the North American Waterfowl Management Plan for nothing! Let us not make Washington State or some individual counties the poster child for parochialism. Don't you suppose there other little critters that benefit from the presence of zj? Herring laying their eggs, crabs, grass shrimp, and small things that turn to mush in the gizzard of a duck? I have seen most of this with my own eyes. Our 88 year old neighbors do not remember when zj was not present. They call it Duck Grass! They get a little upset when they hear that some rent-a PHD says ducks do not eat duck grass. Who is paying this guy? What I am trying to say is where are the Environmental impact statements? Has a comprehensive baseline been established? Are there no regulations that would protect the public good let alone the ducks? Christine W. Barkhurst 151 North Nemah Rd West, South Bend, WA 98586