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Subject: Stop Imazamox
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Reading a report on the *Zostera japonica* Workshop, I was not favorably impressed to see unsupported assumptions made to create a formula used to reach conclusions. This is not acceptable science.

Much must be learned before we allow eradication of the species from commercial shellfish sites. It must be from well supported, unbiased science.

What are the benefits of the species to the marine ecosystem?

An interesting excerpt from a study: "Although *Zostera japonica* was introduced inadvertently, it may be an unusual example of an exotic species being generally beneficial to major components of an ecosystem."

What are its negative effects on the marine ecosystem?

Other questions also need answers:

How great is the economic benefit to eradication of Japanese eelgrass from commercial shellfish sites?

What reserves will be established to correct negative impacts?

A baby super fund, with set-asides from the industry, untouchable except for remedial purposes.

AFTER these questions are answered, IF negative environmental effects outweigh the positive, THEN we need to determine the best means of removal. It is absurd to consider removing non-native species, which has beneficial effects, by introducing a foreign substance which will also kill native species, when little is known about its long term effects to this environment.

Introduction of this chemical must NOT be approved before we have solid answers to many questions, including:

How many sites and acres may qualify?

Who will be held responsible for adverse effects and penalized for misuse?

How far can this chemical travel in the water column and at what distance from the application site will it kill vegetation?

How can users protect, or rehabilitate, other sites? Is there an antidote?

How much advance notice will be provided to those who own nearby sites, or recreationally harvest shellfish and seaweed nearby?

Do some shellfish concentrate this in their tissues to a level that may harm humans or other creatures when consumed?

How does it dissipate, what is its duration?

What are the effects of decomposing vegetation upon the marine environment?

IF eradication of Japanese eelgrass from commercial shellfish sites is allowed, it is probably preferable to do it manually.

No off-site chemical effects.

Opportunity to save native eelgrass, which should be MANDATORY.

Gather dead eelgrass to minimize rotting vegetation.

Possible byproduct - dry land organic fertilizer.

Work for industrious laborers.