

March 7, 2012

To: Kathy Hamel  
WA Dept. of Ecology  
PO BOX 47600

From: Harbor View Motel  
3204 281<sup>st</sup> St.  
Nahcotta, WA 98637

Hello Kathy,

My name is Marilyn and we met at the State Weed Board Meeting in October. I am writing you today in support of the Dept. of Ecology in their endeavor to issue an NPDES permit for the use of Imazamox to control Japonica in Willapa Bay, WA.

I am the third generation of my family to be born and raised in Ocean Park, WA, my mother still lives in the house that my grandmother was raised in and I am proud to be raising my children in this community as well. Willapa Bay is the silent backbone of this community which is so important to not just me, but many generations of many families which call this place home. Willapa Bay and the members of this community nurture each other every day. The members of this community nurture Willapa Bay by protecting it's shorelines through purposeful zoning policies, by practicing "lightest touch" recreation, and by keeping a watchful eye on it every day and thoughtfully investigating changes.

Willapa Bay has to be one of the few estuaries where you can look to a distant shoreline and view it in its natural state, undisturbed by substantial shoreline development. Waterfront property is well known as being a high dollar investment; however the people of our community have resisted cashing in on that at the expense of Willapa Bay. Through purposeful zoning instituted decades ago the water quality of Willapa Bay has been nurtured by this community. On a warm summer day in Willapa you won't see speed boats and jet skis zipping around, you will see kayaks gliding by and small fishing boats pattering along. Although no laws or policies mandate this, the people of this community nurture Willapa Bay through "lightest touch" recreation. I myself have often wanted to take a jet ski out on Willapa Bay or use it as a selling point to guests at our motel, but the thought of seeing one zipping by at top speed is not how I or the community wants to care for this beautiful estuary. Furthermore, the people of this community nurture Willapa Bay by keeping a watchful eye on changes and threats to its health. When a significant change is noted, it is carefully researched by knowledgeable scientist, their work being supported and funded not only by state agencies, but mainly by our local oyster growers, through support of Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, local weed boards, etc. When it is deemed that there is a way to protect the Bay from what is happening, like in the case of the Spartina invasion, then the community works together to find and support the best solutions.

Willapa Bay in return nurtures this community by providing sustainable, family wage jobs that bring money from outside the community into it. It also provides the community and visitors with an incredible wealth of recreational natural resources and opportunities. It provides incredible learning opportunities for the children of this community and acts as a draw for many scientists to come to our area to learn more about how this incredibly healthy estuary functions and remains sustainable.

I offer you this background to depict the deep sense of commitment that this community has to the health of Willapa Bay. Those supporting this permit would not do so lightly or without careful consideration for the overall health of Willapa Bay. As with all projects, zoning, Integrated Pest Managements Programs, etc. the overall health of the Bay is always considered a top priority to the many groups with a long term commitment here.

I encourage the WA State Dept. of Ecology to assist this community in nurturing Willapa Bay by issuing this permit which will give the shellfish growers the tool they need to help reclaim some of the incredibly important tidelands upon which all organisms in the bay rely. I further encourage that the use be expanded to state owned public lands as I feel it would be irresponsible to allow these natural resources to be lost.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Marilyn Sheldon  
Harbor View Motel  
360-665-4959