

From: [Susan Mac](#)
To: [Hamel, Kathy \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: poisoning willapa bay and Puget sound
Date: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 10:49:00 AM

Dear Department of Ecology,

Re: Japanese eelgrass control

Ecology absolutely should not permit the use of imazamox on Japanese eelgrass.

1. Although Japanese eelgrass is classified as an invasive, this is not reason to consider it a detriment to northwest marine ecosystems. Ecosystems are in constant flux. There is no research that says Japanese eelgrass is damaging the eco system, of the pacific north west, just a few shellfish farmers who want to expand from oysters to clams.
2. Japanese eelgrass is considered ecologically beneficial in other countries and is prized and protected. It provides spawning habitat and other ecosystem benefits.

Many of the ducks moving through Willapa bay depend on eelgrass for safety as well as food.

Willapa Bay is with in the Pacific fly zone and Ecology will be responsible for the death of this habitat, if you allow spraying of poison

3. Japanese eelgrass tends to grow in the upper intertidal zone where native eelgrass doesn't grow. In the mid zone it is displaced over time by native eelgrass that tends to grow more vigorously but takes more time to become established. Repeated poisoning of native eelgrass has probably helped create a niche for Japanese eelgrass. The grasses also grow together and this gives license to the shellfish industry to kill both
4. This permit if issued gives one industry the ability to spray wherever they want, because there will be no over site! This is an industry that has proved multiple times that it cannot be trusted yet here we are again watching Ecology do the bidding of the shellfish industry over the health and well being of the South Sound region. I would remind you and the governor that we the people employ you and not Taylor shellfish.

Susan Macomson

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