

From: pressentin@aol.com
To: [Hamel, Kathy \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: Imazamox Herbicide Use
Date: Friday, March 02, 2012 2:09:53 PM

I write to oppose the proposed allowance of Imazamox herbicide on Willapa Bay or anywhere in this area. For the past several years we have heard the shellfish culture industry tout the ecological benefit of shellfish culture and have refused to discuss the major use of chemical and mechanical suppressants on alleged "predators" of oysters, geoducks, clams, etc over the natural course of their lifecycle where the predators are natural responses to monoculture. I have opposed such methods as it alters the biological ecology of the Sound. I do not oppose shellfish aquaculture just the incessant demand for greater production in an effort to maximize profit while simplifying the diversity of the substrate thereby edging ever closer to the monoculture of the industrial forest or the tamed river or the floating pen raised salmon. Pesticides should not be used; herbicides should not be used---their effects are long term in a incremental way, beyond our knowledge. Are we to ruin our bay substrates as we have eroded our upland industrialized soil (See Dirt by Prof Montgomery). Would anyone use the "non persistent" Roundup on their carrot patch or Imazomox either. Japanese eelgrass is not the only plant affected--they all are. The aquaculture allowed should be organic is the most stringent manner to protect the diversity of the plants that are foundational below eelgrass level--what science has been done to analyze the effects there?. How complete could it be? Allowing Imazomox escalates the chemical war and gives some new advantage to other "predators" just like the blossoming of ghost shrimp. Prevent it and the industry will adapt with acceptable productivity and the environment will be maintained in keeping with the precautionary principle so often ignored.

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