

**From:** [Jeff Thornton](#)  
**To:** [Hamel, Kathy \(ECY\)](#)  
**Cc:** [13604076426@myfax.com](mailto:13604076426@myfax.com)  
**Subject:** Spraying to kill eelgrass in Willapa Bay  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 7:37:29 PM

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Hello Ms. Hamel,

I recently heard of the plan to spray and kill the eel grass in Willapa Bay. The idea of such brings many questions and concerns to mind. Most importantly I frequent Willapa Bay often and do enjoy harvesting ducks and fish from the bay for myself and my family to eat. I have a 9 year old son that I have been taking with me and he in particular enjoys the duck hunting we do together on Willapa Bay. (As do many other outdoors people)

I have two questions that I was hoping I could bring up and hopefully have the "Powers to be" contemplate before any decision to spray the Willapa Bay is made.

Question # 1 - As almost any waterfowl enthusiast knows the eel grass is an important food source for a lot of ducks on the coastal bays such as Willapa Bay. If the eel grass were to be eradicated what would be the impact on the wintering waterfowl population on Willapa Bay?

The reason I bring this up is that over the past several years it seems that there have been less and less ducks visibly present in the region, although duck population numbers elsewhere are reported to be slightly up. I would hate to see the area continue to decline. If an important food source is gone I can't help but think the ducks most definitely will be gone as well.

Question #2 (And most important) - If this chemical is sprayed into the bay and the ducks eat the grass that has been sprayed and I and my family eat the ducks, is there any health consequences to this? (Ducks usually arrive in September and usually stay past the end of duck season which is the end of January. Is the grass to be sprayed anytime during that time window?)

For many good reasons I won't get into, I have been promoting the idea of eating "fresh" fish and waterfowl to my son. But I can't say that I would be able to, in good conscious, continue to have my kids eat birds that have been eating a grass that has been sprayed with a pesticide.

If you would please get back to me I would appreciate it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Thornton