

From: [Robert Wenman](#)
To: [Hamel, Kathy \(ECY\)](#)
Cc: [Halpern, Alison \(AGR\)](#); [Stevens, Naki \(DNR\)](#); [Schirato, Greg \(DFW\)](#); [Director \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: Comments re Ecology Proposal to Issue General Permit to Spray Imazamox on Commercial Shellfish Beds in Willapa Bay and Puget Sound
Date: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 11:43:14 AM

Ms. Kathy Hamel
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: Ecology Proposal to Issue General Permit to Spray Imazamox on Commercial Shellfish Beds in Willapa Bay and Puget Sound

Dear Ms.Hamel,

1. Native eelgrass which is documented to live in the same proximity to Japanese eelgrass will be at risk of being damaged or eradicated by the spraying of Imazamox.
2. The eradication of Japanese Eelgrass beds to be replaced with a commercial aquaculture activity, does not fulfill the state initiative to protect and restore fish habitat, no fulfill the state law requirement of no-net loss of eelgrass. The term "eelgrass" is still shown in other state regulations and the protections cannot be ignored. The Puget Sound Partnership has set a goal of expanding eelgrass beds by 20%. Displacing shoreline suitable for eelgrass growth with aquaculture is counter to this goal.
3. The full impact on species has not been evaluated and warrants a SEPA declaration of significance and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The cumulative impact of opportunity loss of these areas converted to aquaculture beds must be evaluated. Even if there was a program to temporarily displace the Japanese eelgrass with native eelgrass species, this warrants a study of what the impacts would be upon fish while the native grass takes hold.
4. It is clear that the main intent of proposing to eradicate the Japanese eelgrass is to support the expansion of aquaculture not to control the spread of eelgrass into existing aquaculture beds.
5. These areas where Japanese eelgrass grows are also most typically suitable for native eelgrass, that likely thrived at these locations prior to the introduction of Japanese eelgrass. These are eelgrass beds and must be protected.
6. Eradication of Japanese eelgrass will also put other species at risk, such as many migratory waterfowl, and food sources important to listed fish species.
7. The use of Imazamox has not been fully studied nor approved by EPA in Marine

waters for Puget sound. The use of this chemical in Puget sound in counter to all efforts to control pollutants in our Puget sound waters. There has not been any testing, biological opinion, or EIS released to support a declaration that the use of this chemical will not have an adverse effect on our Puget sound marine waters and upon the food chain that supports listed species including Chinook and orca whale.

The combined use with Carbaryl must also be studied. Local marine experts have continued to raise concerns with the use of this chemical on fish species showing increased evidence of tumors and mutations in fish that inhabit waters where Carbaryl is used. The aquaculture industry has been observed using this chemical in waters not authorized, so there is even greater concern that the industry would not follow current standards of application.

I have also enclosed some additional information obtained on the internet in use of Imazamox that expresses a high level of concern of use of this product on fish habitat. The product does not discriminate on what plant life is affected, and impact on fish life is not fully known. The mass conversion of our shorelines for aquaculture use is not consistent with the Shoreline Management Act. Lastly, the cumulative impact on loss of eelgrass beds together with the cumulative impact on fish life and the general health of puget sound, from the use of Imazamox and ultimate conversion to commercial aquaculture needs to be fully evaluated through a biological analysis tied to a SEPA determination prior to any further determinations on eradicating japanese eelgrass.

For the expressed reasons, I urge you to deny this request to use Imazamox and issue a letter of concern to about the eradication of Japanese eelgrass beds.

Please consider this letter to be my request to be considered an interested party, and to receive further notices regarding the eradication of japanese eelgrass, and use of Imazamox in puget sound.

Sincerely

Robert Wenman
Resident, Henderson Bay
Pierce County, Wa
8416 131st St NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98329

Relevant Studies:

Documentation for Review

1. The following summary from LookChem, completely contradicts the information in the Ecology Freshwater EIS and industry information:

<http://www.pesticide.org/get-the-facts/pesticide-factsheets/factsheets/imazapic>

16. OTHER INFORMATION-Imazamox

[http://www.lookchem.com/msds/2011-06%2f1%2f34227\(114311-32-9\).pdf](http://www.lookchem.com/msds/2011-06%2f1%2f34227(114311-32-9).pdf)

Text of H-code(s) and R-phrase(s) mentioned in Section 3

Aquatic Acute

Aquatic Chronic

H410

N

R50/53

Acute aquatic toxicity

Chronic aquatic toxicity

Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects.

Dangerous for the environment

Very toxic to aquatic organisms, may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment.

2. Imidazolinone Herbicide Family-Fact Sheet-Chemical Family Impacts

<http://www.pesticide.org/get-the-facts/pesticide-factsheets/factsheets/imazapic>

"Imazapic is in the imidazolinone herbicide family, "some of the most potent herbicides on the market." Imidazolinone herbicides have the same mode of action as another potent herbicide family, the sulfonylureas.