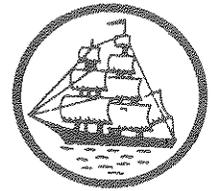


# Wiegardt & Sons, Inc.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY



Growers, Packers and Distributors of Willapa Bay Oysters

MAR 09 2012

P.O. Box 309  
Ocean Park, WA 98640

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

JOLLY ROGER

(360) 665-4111 Fax (360) 665-4950

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Kathy Hamel

Washington State Department of Ecology

PO Box 47600

Olympia, WA. 98504

Dear Kathy,

I am writing this letter to you to voice my support of DOE issuing an NPDES permit to allow imazamox to be used to control the noxious weed Japonica on commercially managed shellfish beds. Japonica has caused a lot of negative impacts to our company. Ground that was once productive steamer clam beds have been taken over by this weed and are now nothing but a mucky mess. Because of this Japonica has caused a net loss of full time jobs in our company. In today's harsh economic times I feel that this is a very important point.

Our company has been one of the most aggressive at trying to adopt mechanical means to control this weed. We have found (after great expense and effort) that mechanical control is limited in its effectiveness. It is extremely site specific and very costly. However, mechanical means could be used on some ground to help maintain it after imazamox has been applied, possibly extending the time period between applications.

In closing, because of our past experience with Japonica we whole heartedly support DOE issuing an NPDES permit for the use of imazamox to control Japonica. We feel that this is the most effective method with the lightest environmental touch.

Thank You,

Ken Wiegardt

Wiegardt & Sons, Inc.