

**From:** [Wilson99APS@aol.com](mailto:Wilson99APS@aol.com)  
**To:** [ECY RE Japanese Eelgrass Permit Comments](#)  
**Subject:** General Permit and EIS Scope for Zostera japonica Control  
**Date:** Friday, November 02, 2012 2:05:24 PM

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November 2, 2012

Kathy Hamel  
Permit Writer, Washington State Department of Ecology  
PO Box 46600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: General Permit and EIS Scope for Zostera japonica Control

Dear Ms. Hamel,

Thank you for the opportunity for public comment on the (1) proposed general permit and (2) scope of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding control of the non-native state-listed noxious weed *Zostera japonica* on commercial clam beds (excluding geoducks) in Willapa Bay, Pacific County.

I support issuance of the general permit and hope that it can be in place by early Spring 2013 when *Z. japonica* begins to germinate. As part of the pathway to issuing a general permit, Ecology will be completing an EIS. I have had the opportunity to read the letter submitted by Margaret P. Barrette on behalf of the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association (PCSGA) and I fully support PCSGA's suggestions on EIS scoping--I hope that you are able to accommodate these suggestions as you undertake the EIS work. With shellfish and shellfish beds identified as "priority species" and "critical saltwater habitat", respectively, that are to be protected under Shoreline Master Programs, it is especially important to find the least burdensome, most efficacious alternative to controlling the non-native eelgrass in the Willapa that threatens these beds.

I realize that the EIS is only one of many analyses used by decision makers in weighing alternatives and making final decisions. For example, State Economic Policy (RCW 43.21H) clarifies that legislative intent for state agency decisions is for economic, social, health, and safety impacts to be given appropriate weight, along with environmental considerations. I do not know the methods and procedures that Ecology will use to insure that the non-environmental factors are given due consideration in final decision-making but I look forward to seeing these assessments along side the EIS.

Sincerely,

Vicki Wilson  
Arcadia Point Seafood  
240 SE Arcadia Point Road  
Shelton, WA 98584