
From: Richard Wilson [bcfarms@baycenterfarms.com]
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 4:41 PM
To: Hamel, Kathy (ECY)
Subject: Re: Japanese Eelgrass Permit scoping restriction

Hi Kathy,

That sounds reasonable and it is encouraging that this would not necessarily be a static permit without future additions as the invasive grass continues to expand. I fully agree to the testing and monitoring to base future actions upon.

Of course, those resource agencies are exactly the folks who should really be concerned about the potential future negative impacts of Japanese Eelgrass on the benthic biota, sediments and chemistry.

Thanks.

Dick

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On Oct 19, 2012, at 3:30 PM, Hamel, Kathy (ECY) wrote:

> Hi Dick, It was our understanding from conversations with Dr. Patten
> and others, that the greatest impact to commercial shellfish was
> occurring in Willapa Bay and to commercial clam operations. We also
> understood that there were concerns from growers that Japanese
> eelgrass could cause problems in some oyster growing grounds and in
> areas other than Willapa. We had very strong concerns expressed by
> natural resource agencies that any permit that we issued should start
> small (pilot project) and that we should evaluate impacts before
> considering expanding the permit to other areas. So that was the
> reason that we decided to just go with commercial clam beds for now.
> Assuming that Ecology issues the permit, once we have more data from
> these treatments (assuming no or minimal treatment effects) and if
> other growers report problems with Japanese eelgrass, then we will
> have the data to help back up any decision to expand the permit in the
> future.

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> Let me know if you have other questions.

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> Kathy

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> From: Richard Wilson [bcfarms@baycenterfarms.com]
> Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 2:09 PM
> To: Hamel, Kathy (ECY)
> Subject: Japanese Eelgrass Permit scoping restriction

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> Hello Kathy,

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> I was curious how Ecology came to the conclusion to only include
> commercial clam beds in the scope of the proposed management of
> Japanese Eelgrass. Did shellfish growers actually suggest, perhaps
> through comments, only clam growing areas were impacted? This is quite
> a restriction to a relatively few unique areas. I can understand why
> this is only for Willapa Bay and excludes geoduck growing areas (which
> are usually much lower in the intertidal).
>
> Over the past couple of years only a relatively small portion of the
> higher oyster seed areas have the beginning starts of *Z. japonica* but
> each year it expands and becomes more dense. Also, many of our clam
> growing areas also have Pacific Oysters either close by or intermixed.
> Often the high hummocks catch clam and oyster set and the clams move
> down into the muddy areas ... an area also favored by the Japanese
> Eelgrass.
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> Thanks, I just wanted to perhaps determine what the origin and
> thinking behind this restriction in the scope possibility was.
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> Dick
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> Richard L. Wilson, Ph.D.
> President, BayCenterFarms
> www.baycenterfarms.com