

From: [Hamel, Kathy \(ECY\)](#)
To: [Lubliner, Nathan \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: FW: japanese eelgrass permit
Date: Thursday, November 01, 2012 10:04:28 AM

From: hwbranch@aol.com [hwbranch@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2012 9:12 AM
To: Hamel, Kathy (ECY)
Subject: japanese eelgrass permit

Dear Department of Ecology,

Japanese eelgrass is an invasive but like many invasives it doesn't seem to be doing anything harmful (unless you're engaged in industrial scale aquaculture) and seems to actually provide benefits including beach stabilization and forage, spawning and protective habitat for species including some that are threatened. The aquaculturists claim that there is increased siltation and a filling effect but I haven't seen any good science supporting that. Japanese eelgrass provides many of the benefits provided by native eelgrass, just a little shallower and higher up the beach. Some of the proliferation of japanese eelgrass is probably due to repeated hammering of the intertidal areas by industrial scale aquaculture. First they create an artificial environment, through the widespread use (including aerial spraying) of insecticides to kill burrowing shrimp etc and with herbicides to kill whatever plant life is in the way. Then they have to kill whatever moves in.

I don't consider myself an environmentalist. I think of myself as an ex commercial fisherman who would like to see the next generation enjoy some of the benefits of a healthy ecosystem that I enjoyed. But that's looking less and less likely as time progresses. Natural marine ecosystems are the most productive, resilient and maintenance free. Physical and chemical manipulation of the environment is only going to cost us dearly in the long run. We will have an ecosystem that only utilizes shellfish and when shellfish growing crashes because of acidification, diseases of overcrowding, displacement of keystone species or any number of other causes, we will be left with nothing. It's a concept of resource management that a few people can take to the bank while the rest of us can take a hike.

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