

From: [Hamel, Kathy \(ECY\)](#)
To: [Lubliner, Nathan \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: FW: japonica
Date: Thursday, November 01, 2012 8:12:23 PM

From: Mike Johnson [paccon@willapabay.org]
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2012 5:15 PM
To: Hamel, Kathy (ECY)
Subject: japonica

Kathy, On Behalf of the Pacific Conservation District, Board of Supervisor's (PCD) and the Pacific County Marine Resources Committee, Board of Director's (PCMRC), I would like to take this opportunity to comment on and endorse our support for the proposed addition of imazamox to the State's general NPDES permit to control the invasive *Zostera japonica* within Willapa Bay. The PCMRC provided a letter of support to the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) back on March 8, 2012 and the Pacific Conservation District provided a letter of Support on March 7, 2012. I also know that Pacific County weed Management has also provided a letter of support to add imazamox to the State's general NPDES permit

We feel the addition of Imazamox will allow the control of invasive *Zostera japonica*. Studies on imazamox have found that imazamox is very benign and much less toxic than imazapyr, the aquatic labeled chemical that is used to control *Spartina alterniflora* in Willapa Bay. The massive invasion of *Zostera japonica* is completely altering the tidelands in Willapa Bay. We need the ability to protect and restore tideland habitat provided by shellfish beds. The control of *Zostera japonica* on various properties will allow native shore birds to utilize the tidelands and have a clear place to feed, forage, and rest. Native and natural biota will return for birds and other species that they feed upon. The heavy layer of muck and sedimentation that is caused from *Zostera japonica* will begin to disappear and the beds and tidelands will be restored back to natural function so shorebirds and other aquatic life can naturally utilize the habitat again.

The invasive *Zostera japonica* not only impacts the natural biota of Willapa Bay, but it breaks down the economic stability and foundation of an industry that supports numerous jobs and local businesses within our local area. Pacific County is one of the most depressed economic areas within the State and we cannot allow or afford this invasive, non native species to adversely affect our natural environment and local economy.

If a status quo action is pursued, we would also like to see the EIS include an assessment of the economic impacts and an assessment completed that compares the efficacy results of the alternative control methods.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. We feel that the addition of imazamox to the State's general NPDES permit for the control of *Zostera japonica* will benefit and restore the natural ecosystem and help to regain the social and economic foundation within Willapa Bay. Thank you again.

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