

October 30, 2012

Kathy Hamel
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: Japanese Eelgrass Management on Commercial Clam Beds in Willapa Bay General Permit

I am writing to ask you not to issue any permit for the use of imazamox or any herbicide to eradicate Japanese eelgrass on commercial (or other) clam beds. Frankly, the idea that once in the water any herbicide can be controlled just does not pass the common sense test. It is pollution. Permitting this herbicide use puts the profits of a few ahead of the interests of most citizens. I would not go near the water or the beach of Willapa Bay and certainly would not eat the oysters.

We know that eelgrass is essential habitat for many small species and important to our native salmon and waterfowl. Japanese eelgrass has been shown to fill this need as well as the native eelgrass and has not been found to be harmful to native species.

Native eelgrass is protected. Imazamox would most certainly damage native eelgrass as well as the target Japanese eelgrass.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Walker
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