

Laura Hendricks

Allowing continued pesticide spraying in marine waters that will kill both Japonica eelgrass and native eelgrass is contrary to Governor Inslee's goal of increasing natural shorelines for salmon and whales. To allow one industry, that has an unsatiable appetite for shellfish aquaculture expansion and profit over the well being of all other interests, is the ultimate picture of out of control lobbying. When our organization, The Coalition To Protect Puget Sound Habitat, appealed this original permit decision to the State Hearings Board, we were told we could not prove future damage and therefore this permit was allowed. Here we are years later and this industry has put pressure on state agencies, especially Fish and Wildlife, to not do any monitoring or evaluations of how much aquatic vegetation and eelgrass (both native and non-native) has already been destroyed or how much is still in Willapa Bay. It is no coincidence that the salmon runs, herring, marbled murrelet, migratory bird populations and other marine species have virtually disappeared in Willapa Bay after over 40 years of either carbaryl, glysophate, imazapyr, imidacloprid and imazamox spraying by the shellfish industry. It is not an honest narrative for the shellfish industry to eradicate eelgrass of any kind and at the same time complain about ocean acidification which science proves is reduced by aquatic vegetation like eelgrass. For Ecology or Fish and Wildlife to even attempt to act like wildlife in Willapa Bay/Grays Harbor is important is a completely false narrative that is sad, but true. This permit should not be renewed for the obvious reasons.

Laura Hendricks
Director, Coalition To Protect Puget Sound Habitat