

Fritzi Cohen

Below is taken from a national mailing of the Center for Food Safety in opposition to renewal of the permit for imazamox to spray eelgrasses in Willapa Bay. I am in total agreement with CFS, and with Larry Warnberg and Ross Barkhurst who have also submitted comments. The disgraceful abuse of Willapa Bay on behalf of commercial shellfish growers, (actually not by any means all of the shellfish growers) needs to end.

"The state of Washington is in the process of renewing a five-year permit to spray eelgrass beds in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor with herbicides, risking the fragile ecosystem that supports some of Washington's most important and iconic species.

Eelgrass is key to ecosystem resiliency and combatting climate change. It is a highly-valued source of shelter and food for many wildlife species. Eelgrass also serves as an "ecosystem engineer" by slowing water flow, binding and stabilizing sediments, and mitigating the impacts of ocean acidification by absorbing CO₂ and increasing oxygen in the water."

What happens in Willapa Bay is no longer a private conversation.