

# ELODEA

## spread the word, not the weed!

*Elodea* (also known as “oxygen weed” in pet stores) is a very invasive submerged aquatic plant.

***It is not native to Alaska.***

*Thick beds of Elodea were found in Sand and Delong Lakes in Anchorage in July 2011. It has also been found in Little Campbell Lake. Elodea is also found in Fairbanks (Chena Lake, River & Slough) and Cordova (Eyak, McKinley and Martin Lakes; Alaganik Slough). While these are the only known infestations of this weed in Alaska, it is easily transported to other locations by float planes, boats and trailers. It’s popularity as an aquarium species in Alaska suggests initial introductions likely came from people dumping their aquarium’s contents in local waterbodies.*

### **We don’t want Elodea in Alaska**

- **Safety:** fouls float plane rudders and boat propellers
- **Nuisance:** impedes boat launching, navigation, and fishing
- **Economic:** reduces property values by fouling launch sites/nearshore habitats
- **Ecological:** decreases stream velocity; increases sedimentation; simplifies aquatic community; alters nutrient cycle; has been shown to degrade salmon spawning habitat

### **Help keep Alaska’s waters valuable. Please:**

- inspect and clean your aircraft before every flight (***see back for details***)
- inspect and clean your boat and trailer before entering/exiting a lake
- support efforts to manage/eliminate *Elodea* in Alaska
- never dump aquarium life into a waterbody or move aquatic life between waterbodies

### **For more Information:**

Stop aquatic hitchhikers: <http://www.protectyourwaters.net>

You  “Sea Plane Inspection and Decontamination”

**Report sightings of *Elodea* to:**

**1-877-INVASIV**

# ***ELODEA***



## **spread the word, not the weed!**

### **Before entering the aircraft**

- Inspect/remove plants from floats, wires or cables, and water rudders.
- Check the transom, bottom, chine, wheel wells, and float step area.
- Pump water from floats.

### **Before takeoff**

- Do not taxi through heavy aquatic plant growth prior to takeoff.
- Raise and lower water rudders to clear off plants, minimize cable stretch and improve steering effectiveness.

### **After takeoff**

- Raise/lower water rudders several times to free aquatic plant fragments while over the waters you are leaving or over land.