ELODEA

Submersed aquatic plants in the genus *Elodea* are **not native** to Alaska. *Elodea* survives freezing, and can spread by tiny fragments. ***These traits make it extremely invasive.***

Elodea has been confirmed in lakes and slow-moving rivers/streams in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Cordova, and most recently the Kenai Peninsula. It's a popular aquarium plant in Alaska and can spread if released: boats, trailers, floatplanes, waders, and equipment can act as vectors. ***Elodea will cause serious, irreversible harm to fish and aquatic habitats in Alaska if allowed to spread unchecked.***

We don't want *Elodea* in Alaska

- **Safety:** fouls boat propellers & float plane rudders
- **Nuisance:** impedes boat launching, navigation, and fishing
- **Economic:** reduces property values by fouling launch sites/nearshore habitats
- **Ecological:** has been shown to degrade salmon spawning habitat

Elodea in Chena Slough/Fairbanks, Alaska

Always remove aquatic plants from your trailer after leaving/ before entering a new waterbody.

If you find *Elodea:*

◆**Note its location:** GPS coordinates and/or a mark on a map with description.

◆**Note its habitat:** did you find it in a river or lake? how deep was the water? was the water clear or slightly muddy?

◆**Take a specimen:** At minimum, take a photo. Take as much of the entire plant as you can, including the flower if present. Put it in a zip lock bag and store in a cool place. If you don't have a bag, press it in a book or inside wax paper and keep it somewhere safe so it doesn't break up. Aquatic plants dry quickly.

◆**Report it:** Call the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's invasive species hotline:
At that time someone will let you know where to send the sample. **1-877-INVASIV (468-2748)**

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

CLEAN-*Rinse and remove visible mud, plant debris from boats, trailers, floatplanes, and gear.*
DRAIN-*Empty coolers, bilge pumps, buckets and wring out gear before leaving a waterbody.*
DRY-*Completely dry equipment and gear between visits to fresh water systems.*

Never release plants, fish, or other animals into a body of water.

Individual plants vary widely in appearance depending on growing conditions

The photo above was taken underwater in Chena Lake. Here *Elodea* is dense and thick and grows in a near monoculture.

Elodea from the Chena River.

Elodea collected at Chena Lake.

This is a thick *Elodea* monoculture in Chena Slough near Peede Road. Water was flowing slowly here and the *Elodea* almost filled the slough basin.

Elodea in Chena Slough coated with brown sediment, which makes is harder to see and to identify.

Elodea strands mixed in with some other species in shallow water near Nordale Road, in Chena Slough. Here *Elodea* looks very different than it does where the water is deeper and flowing more slowly.