

## **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)** 





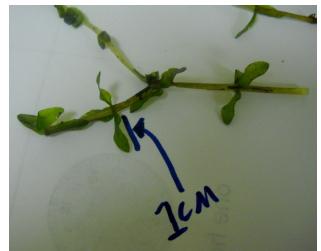
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

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.