

# 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. Elodea is also found in Fairbanks (Chena Lake & Slough) and Cordova (Eyak Lake). While these are the only known infestations of this weed in Alaska, it is easily transported to other locations by float planes, boat propellers, and trailers.*

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


- Safety: fouls float plane rudders and boat propellers
- Nuisance: impedes boat launching and navigation
- Economic: reduces property values by fouling launch sites/nearshore habitats
- Ecological: alters the food webs and habitat in lakes, sloughs, and rivers and 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

### **For more information:**

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

You  “Sea Plane Inspection and Decontamination”

### **Report *Elodea* sightings:**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service : 1-907-786-3510 or 3813

Fairbanks Cooperative Weed Management Area: 1-907-479-1213





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## **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.

