

ELODEA

In Anchorage

A Project Update



Elodea, a highly invasive submerged aquatic plant, has taken root in 3 Anchorage Lakes: DeLong Lake, Little Campbell Lake, and Sand Lake. Elodea is not native to Alaska and can cause economic and environmental harm to aquatic habitats as well as resident and stocked fish when allowed to spread unchecked. It can, and already has, impeded Anchorage recreation and could potentially lower property values.

Taking the Lead:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the agency with regulatory authority to manage Alaska's invasive plant species and works together with partner organizations in multiple regions in the state to eradicate Elodea from local waterbodies. Citizens Against Noxious Weeds Invading the North (CANWIN) is the local Anchorage partner DNR is working with on the Elodea infestations in the Anchorage area. With financial, technical, and logistical support with The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), these organizations have the knowledge and resources to successfully eradicate Elodea in Anchorage.

Current Action:

Due to the aggressive nature of Elodea and its ability to spread via floatplane and recreational equipment, experts across Alaska have moved forward with plans to eradicate elodea and prevent further spread. A systemic herbicide is capable of achieving eradication because it is absorbed through leaves, shoots, and roots of plants, disrupting the photosynthetic process. Physical or mechanical control methods are ineffective for eradicating elodea as this plant reproduces readily from small fragments. When these fragments are transported, they are capable of reproducing in new locations.

In the case of DeLong, Little Campbell, and Sand Lakes, fluridone has been identified as the best herbicide for eradication with negligible risks to human health and the environment. At the prescribed concentration level of 5-15 parts per billion (ppb), fluridone can kill elodea and is EPA approved in water used for drinking up to 150 ppb. There are no EPA restrictions on the use of fluridone-treated water for swimming or fishing when used according to label directions. The proposed treatment will include applications across three seasons to ensure eradication. On the Kenai Peninsula, measures to eradicate Elodea have also used fluridone in larger lakes and have shown successful preliminary results. To find out more about fluridone in Sonar products, please go to: http://www.sepro.com/documents/Risk_Guide.pdf

What's Next:

DNR, USFWS, and CANWIN have been working on an Anchorage Management Plan and are currently applying for appropriate permits. Per this management plan, two herbicide applications will be applied in 2015 (one in early-mid summer and one fall application) followed by single treatments the following two summers (2016 and 2017). Monitoring will be ongoing throughout the project duration.

Winter/Spring 2015	Permitting, Planning, & Public Meeting
Summer 2015	Application 1 (all lakes) + Monitoring
Fall 2015	Application 2 (all lakes) + Monitoring
Summer 2016	Application 3 (all lakes) + Monitoring
Summer 2017	Application 4 (all lakes, if needed) + Monitoring

How is this being funded?

Funding has been secured from the USFWS through partnerships with CANWIN to cover the project costs including pre and post application monitoring, equipment, water quality, herbicide concentration tests, and herbicides throughout the duration of the project.

Total Grant Award: \$110,000

What you can do:

- Join the listserv to get updates via email: <http://list.state.ak.us/soalists/AnchorageElodeaManagement/jl.htm>
- Visit <http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/elodea.htm> for updates on the Anchorage project online.
- Participate in the public comment periods for upcoming permit and environmental assessment processes. Information on how to access these documents will be advertised on our website (above).
- Ask questions! Feel free to contact us for questions, comments, and concerns about the project. We are here as resources for you.

** A Public Meeting time and place will be determined and announced soon.*



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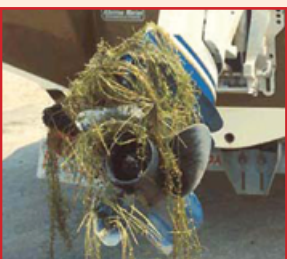
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