

## Elodea canadensis Questionnaire

The Lakelse Watershed Society was recently formed by a group of citizens concerned about the amount of *Elodea canadensis* in their lake. They are working with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine to create a Lake Management Plan for Lakelse Lake near Terrace. I have been hired to help the society collect information about their lake and investigate management options.

As part of the project, we are hoping to collect data that will help us understand some of the factors affecting the abundance and distribution of *Elodea* in north central BC. We would like to document the growth status of *Elodea* throughout the region this year. The results will be compiled and shared with all interested parties and will hopefully be repeated in future years to help us gain a better understanding of *Elodea* growth in the area. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions.

Thank you,

Julia Kokelj & the Lakelse Watershed Society

**1. Which lake are you commenting on?**

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**2. Are you... (Check all that apply)**

Seasonal lakeshore resident

Permanent lakeshore resident

Lake protection society member

Volunteer water sampler

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**3. In general how would you classify aquatic plant growth, *including all species*, in your lake (Check one):**

Sparse

Moderate

Dense

**Additional Comments:**

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**4. Have you noticed *Elodea* growing in your lake? (a photo and description of the aquatic plant are provided on the last page)**

YES- please go to question #5

NO- please go to the end of the questionnaire for further information.

**5. (a) Which of the following statements *best* describes the growth of *Elodea* in your lake during this past summer (circle one):**

- 1. Sparse distribution, smaller plants (Elodea appears in a few isolated areas around the shoreline of the lake, generally growing in low, smaller bunches)**
- 2. Sparse distribution and larger plants (Elodea appears in a few isolated areas, growing in dense mats that nearly reached the water surface)**
- 3. Dense distribution yet smaller plants (Elodea appears in a number of areas growing in lower, smaller bunches)**
- 4. Dense distribution and larger plants (Elodea appears in a number of areas, growing in dense mats that nearly reached the water surface)**
- 5. Extensive distribution (Elodea appeared in most of the shallow zone along the shore of the lake in one form or another)**

**Additional Comments:**

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**5. (b) Which of the following statements best describes the growth of Elodea in your lake last year -summer 2001? (circle one):**

- 1. Sparse distribution, smaller plants**
- 2. Sparse distribution and larger plants**
- 3. Dense distribution yet smaller plants**
- 4. Dense distribution and larger plants**
- 5. Extensive distribution**

**5. (c) Can you describe or comment on any growth trend in your lake over the last few years? (For example, has it been steadily increasing, decreasing, showing no visible change, or exhibiting extreme growth vs. very low growth years etc.)**

**6. Do you have any ideas, or have you discussed with friends or neighbours any factors in your area that may be affecting changes in Elodea growth (if there is a change)?**

**7.(a) Are you aware of anyone (including yourself), who has tried to control the growth of the weed in your lake, either on a small scale (individual property) or larger scale (a bay, or entire section of the lake)?**

*Names are NOT necessary so that privacy of residents can be protected.*

**7.(b) If yes, what method was used?**

**7.(c) Did it make any difference?**

*Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.*

**Please mail, fax or email your completed survey to:**

**Julia Kokelj  
Lake Planner - Auxiliary  
Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection, Skeena Region  
Box 5000  
Smithers BC  
V0J 2N0  
phone: (250) 847-7256  
fax: (250) 847-7591  
Julia.Kokelj@gems8.gov.bc.ca**

***Elodea canadensis***

Canadian waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*) has three leaves per whorl. It lives entirely underwater with the exception of small white flowers which bloom at the surface and are attached to the plant by delicate stalks. It produces winter buds from the stem tips which overwinter on the lake bottom. In the fall leafy stalks will detach from the parent plant, float away, root, and start new plants. This is Canadian waterweed's most important method of spreading, with seed production playing a relatively minor role. For more information visit the following site:

**<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/native/index.html>**

