



# Attention Aquarium and Marimo Moss Ball Owners



Zebra mussels

**If you have marimo moss balls in your aquarium, fish bowl or decorative container, please read!**



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Full grown adult zebra mussel.

**D**umping anything (including fish, animals, plants and even the water) out of your aquarium into any body of water or storm drain, can have devastating consequences for Alaska fisheries and water bodies. And it's illegal.

The marimo ball you placed in your tank or fish bowl could be harboring small, invasive zebra mussels. The other fish and plants in your tank are likely not native to our state either. When aquarium contents are dumped into our waters, they can introduce diseases or invasive species causing serious environmental and economic problems. The invasive plant Elodea was once in someone's aquarium and now it is threatening fish habitat and native species in 24 waters bodies in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. Invasive species cost millions of dollars over years to manage or eradicate.

If zebra mussels were introduced to your aquarium on a moss ball, they will quickly take over your tank, making it inhospitable to your aquatic community. If you dump aquarium water down the drain or toilet, zebra mussels could become established in your plumbing. Sanitize aquarium water for 10 minutes before dumping, and never flush unwanted aquatic pets down the toilet.

Far worse consequences could occur if you dump your aquarium contents into the wild. Zebra mussels could become established and destroy the habitat and food resources that support our fisheries and native species. Once zebra mussels become established there is no way to get rid of them.

Keeping marimo moss balls and zebra mussels in your tank is a bad decision for your aquarium and for our environment.

**Call the *Invasive Species Hotline: 1-877-INVASIV (1-877-468-2748)* if you have marimo balls in your aquarium, fish bowl or decorative jar. We can help!**

*The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will provide guidance on how to treat and dispose of your moss ball and any zebra mussels that may have hitched a ride into your aquarium.*



**Never dump your aquarium into Alaska's waters!**

*It's against the law and could harm the environment.*

Report Invasive Species in Alaska.  
Scan the QR code for more information.

