

Help Prevent a *Caulerpa* Invasion!

If it gets into our coastal waters, this nonnative seaweed can smother native marine plant and animal life.

Caulerpa taxifolia, and eight other *Caulerpa* species often used in saltwater aquariums, has been outlawed in California. Its aggressive growth can overwhelm native marine life if it escapes into the wild due to dumping of aquarium contents into waterways and storm drains.

Eradication of this seaweed when it was released in two places in California took six years and cost \$7 million. In the Mediterranean Sea, *Caulerpa* has invaded over 30,000 acres of sea floor since it was released from a public aquarium! Release of this seaweed threatens all of our coastal states.



What you can do to help protect our coastline from this aggressive invader:

- Do not use *Caulerpa* in your aquarium or refugium; use *Chaetomorpha* or other alternative.
- Never release aquarium water into the gutter, storm drain, or any body of water (a 1-millimeter piece can start an infestation).
- Properly dispose of aquarium water into your sewer system only (sink, toilet, shower).
- Dispose of *Caulerpa* and attached substrate by freezing it in a bag for 24 hours and placing it in the trash.



Visit www.sccat.net for more information and pictures of the banned *Caulerpa* species.