

**Invasive species are...** exotic plants or animals that are released into the local aquatic environment. They disrupt the balance of our natural ecosystem and often displace native species. New England depends on its native species for food, commerce, and tourism. Each year it costs billions of dollars to control invasive species.

**At this meeting...** pet industry representatives and environmental managers will meet to discuss the concerns related to invasive species. It is our hope that this group can work together to develop creative, preventive strategies for aquatic invasive species.

### Tentative Agenda...



- 1:00      Welcome  
            TBA, New England Aquarium
  
- 1:05      Aquatic Invasive Species  
            Shannon Weigle, Massachusetts Bays Program
  
- 1:20      Case Study: A Potential Tank Release Gone Bad  
            Anne Monnelly, MA Dept. of Environmental  
            Management
  
- 1:35      Government Concerns and Actions  
            TBA, The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species  
            Panel
  
- 2:00      Pet Industry Concerns and Actions  
            TBA, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council

2:20 "Don't Dump Your Tank" Outreach Campaign  
Shannon Weigle, Massachusetts Bays Program

2:30 Group Discussion

3:00 Meeting Concludes

To register, email ([shannon.weigle@state.ma.us](mailto:shannon.weigle@state.ma.us)) or call us (617-626-1229) with your name, address, and the date that you'd like to attend.