Invasive species can escape or be released accidentally or intentionally from commercial and private aquariums.

Aquaculture species raised in or near coastal waters can escape and harm native species, biodiversity and ecosystem structure or function. Pests imported with aquaculture stock can also escape and cause similar types of damage.

Alien species have spread through manmade canals, such as the Panama Canal, Suez Canal and others.

Oceangoing ships transport alien marine species in ballast water and attached to hulls or other underwater structures that are not thoroughly cleaned.

Global live seafood trade can enable the spread of non-native species that are capable of spawning if released back into marine environments.