

MEMORANDUM**State of Alaska**Department of Fish and Game
Division of Sport Fish

TO: Glenn Haight, Executive Director DATE: March 2, 2018
Board of Fisheries, Juneau

PHONE NO: (907) 465-6095

FROM: Thomas Brookover, Director SUBJECT: Request Consent to use Rotenone
Division of Sport Fish, Anchorage

Per Alaska Statute (AS 16.35.200), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, requests Alaska Board of Fisheries consent to use rotenone to eradicate nonindigenous northern pike from the Tote Road area lakes on the Kenai Peninsula. Division personnel plan to apply rotenone to these lakes in October 2018. Under the above statute, northern pike are considered “predatory animals” that have eliminated all other fish in these lakes. Removing the illegally-introduced pike from the Tote Road area lakes will allow for fishery restoration in these lakes and prevent this invasive species from spreading to other waters where it could cause irrevocable harm to salmon and trout fisheries on the Kenai Peninsula. To date, the Division has successfully used rotenone to remove invasive northern pike populations from 16 water bodies, including the pike-infested lakes and flowing waters of the Soldotna Creek drainage.

Several division biologists received formal training in the correct application of rotenone from the National Conservation Training Center and are also certified to apply pesticides in Alaska. Use of this chemical for fish removal is widespread in the lower 48, is not dangerous for non-gill breathing organisms at treatment concentrations, does not enter groundwater and does not persist in the aquatic environment. Rotenone kills fish by inhibiting a biochemical process that allows fish to utilize oxygen during cellular respiration.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is expected to approve and issue a “pesticide use permit” for this project later this summer. Pending, also, the approval by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and receipt of a ‘Finding of No Significant Impact’ document to conclude the NEPA process for this project, the Division proposes to apply rotenone in early October of this year. These treatments will take approximately four days to complete. The Tote Road area lakes currently contain no other fish besides northern pike. Upon confirming that the northern pike have been eradicated from the rotenone treatments, native fish from nearby Slikok Creek will be relocated into these lakes. The intention is to restore recreational fishing opportunities in these lakes while preventing the spread of this invasive species to other vulnerable waters on the Kenai Peninsula.

The Division respectfully requests Board of Fisheries consent to use rotenone in the Tote Road area lakes. If approved, please ask the Chairman to provide a memo of their consent.

Please contact Rob Massengill (260-2928), Kristine Dunker (267-2889), or Tom Vania (267-2124) if you or board members have any questions or want additional information. Thank you.