



MEMORANDUM

TO: Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Board of Fisheries, Juneau

DATE: 10/2/2020

THROUGH: Tom Vania, Regional
Supervisor, Sport Fish, Region II,
Anchorage

PHONE: 207-267-2131

SUBJECT: Consent to Use Rotenone

FROM: Kristine Dunker, Fishery Biologist,
Sport Fish, Region II, Anchorage

As per Alaska Statute (AS 16.35.200), we request consent from the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) to use rotenone to eradicate nonindigenous northern pike from a small pond near Kashwitna Lake. The pond is not officially named and is informally referred to as Kashwitna Pit. This pond is very small (approximately 4 surface acres) and is within 100 yards of Kashwitna Lake which is currently free of northern pike. This rotenone treatment qualifies for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation General Permit for Rotenone Use (19-GP-FISH). Actions described within the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will not be required for this treatment. An Alaska Department of Natural Resources Land Use Permit has been applied for as well as an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit (APDES). The final authorization required to treat this pond with rotenone and prevent northern pike from spreading to Kashwitna Lake is approval by the board. If approval is granted, this treatment will occur either this fall or next summer, pending the timing of ice-up.

Four fishery biologists in the Division of Sport Fish have received formal training in the correct application of rotenone from the National Conservation Training Center and the American Fisheries Society and are also certified to apply aquatic pesticides in Alaska. Use of rotenone for fish removal is widespread in the lower 48 and has been utilized on over 20 occasions in recent years for invasive populations of northern pike in Southcentral Alaska. Rotenone for fisheries management is not dangerous for non-gill breathing organisms and does not persist in the aquatic environment. Rotenone kills fish by inhibiting a biochemical process that allows fish to utilize waterborne oxygen during cellular respiration.

Following the treatment, Kashwitna Pit will be monitored to ensure that live northern pike do not remain and to determine when the rotenone is fully degraded. If complete eradication does not occur, a second application would then be necessary. However, it is expected that the northern pike will be removed with a single rotenone application.

We request that you inform the members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries about the current plans to use rotenone and that they reply by memo from the Chairman as to their consent to use rotenone in Kashwitna Pond. If members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries require additional information, please contact either myself (267-2889) or Parker Bradley (746-6328). Thank you very much for your assistance.

Kashwitna Pit Treatment Area

