



MEMORANDUM

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

DATE: 3/5/2021

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 to use rotenone to eradicate nonindigenous northern pike from infested waters in the Miller Creek Drainage on the northern Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. At a minimum, the waters to be treated include Vogel Lake, North Vogel Lake, and Miller Creek and will include any additional waters in the drainage if new discoveries of northern pike are made this summer. This rotenone treatment qualifies for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation General Permit for Rotenone Use (19-GP-FISH). A thorough NEPA process (National Environmental Policy Act) is underway. An Alaska Department of Natural Resources Land Use Permit application and an Alaska Department of Conservation Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit (APDES) modification will be submitted as required. BOF approval is one of the final authorizations needed for this project to move forward. If approval is granted, this treatment will occur this fall, pending the final NEPA decision. This project is a partnership between ADF&G the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Kenai Watershed Forum. If successful, this project will eradicate the last known invasive northern pike population on the Kenai Peninsula.

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 concentrations used 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.

Treated waters will be monitored posttreatment 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. This project will include actions to restore native fish populations posttreatment.

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 the Miller

Creek Drainage. If members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries require additional information, please contact either myself (267-2889) or Robert Massengill (260-2928). Thank you very much for your assistance.

Miller Creek Drainage Treatment Area

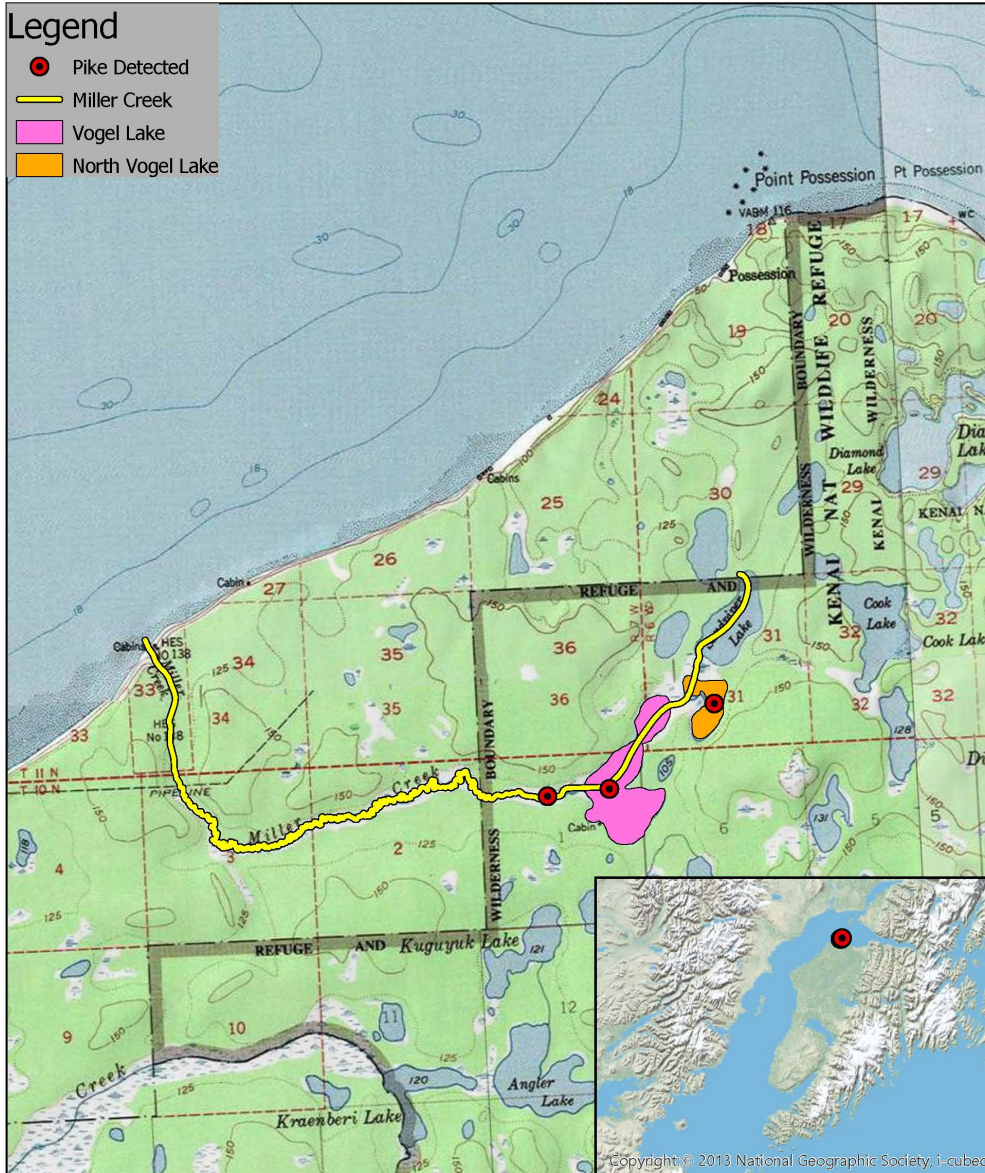


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alaska Region Invasive Species Program

Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska

Miller Creek / Vogel Lake Project Area



PRODUCED BY: BEN WISHNEK
SOLDOTNA, AK
MAP DATE: 18 DECEMBER 2020

