

Division of Sport Fish
Charles Swanton, Director
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Alaska Department of Fish and Game
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PRESS RELEASE

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PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT FOR PLAN TO USE ROTENONE TO REMOVE INVASIVE NORTHERN PIKE FROM STORMY LAKE

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) seeks public comment regarding its plans to use rotenone, a naturally-occurring compound derived from tropical plant roots, to eradicate invasive northern pike in Stormy Lake (Nikiski). ADFG has completed a series of public scoping meetings, prepared an environmental assessment (EA), and submitted an Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Pesticide Use Permit Application for treating the lake.

Public notices for the EA and ADEC Pesticide Use Permit Application will be advertised in the Peninsula Clarion on January 22 and 23, 2012. The environmental assessment can be viewed online at:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/species/nonnative/invasive/rotenone/pdfs/stormy_lake_ea.pdf

Public comments for the EA will be accepted beginning January 22 through February 23, 2012. Comments can be submitted by e-mail to robert.massengill@alaska.gov, via postal mail by sending to the address provided online, or by calling 262-9368. To view the ADEC Pesticide Use Permit Application, or for directions on how to submit a comment for the ADEC Pesticide Use Permit Application, go to: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/pest/publicnotice.htm>.

Invasive northern pike have depleted native Arctic char and rainbow trout in Stormy Lake to a level that no longer supports a viable sport fishery. The continued presence of northern pike threatens native coho and sockeye salmon, as well as rainbow trout, Arctic char/Dolly Varden, longnose sucker and other species of the 240-square-mile Swanson River drainage. ADFG has, with public input, evaluated alternatives for addressing the invasive northern pike issue and believes the use of rotenone is the most cost efficient and effective method. Eradication of northern pike will allow the restoration of the lake's natural fish assemblage and remove the threat of their expansion from Stormy Lake into the remainder of the drainage. For more information about rotenone, visit: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=rotenone.main>

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The Stormy Lake Restoration Project is a partnership between the ADFG Division of Sport Fish, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Kenai Field Office and the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge), the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and the Kenai River Sportfishing Association.

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