

INFORMED CONSENT

for a Research Study entitled

“Evaluating the effectiveness of shoreline rotenone application to reduce largemouth bass recruitment in small impoundments”

You are invited to allow your pond to be treated as part of a research study to evaluate the effectiveness of shoreline rotenone to reduce largemouth bass recruitment in small impoundments. The study is being conducted by faculty member Dr. Matthew J. Catalano and graduate students at the Auburn University School of Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences. You were selected as a possible participant because your pond fits criteria for inclusion in this study. The reason for the rotenone treatment is to reduce the density of baby bass in the pond, which may increase food availability thereby increasing bass growth and body condition (plumpness). The effectiveness of this treatment method has not been thoroughly studied, which underscores the need for our study and the importance of your pond in the study.

If you decide to participate in this research study, you will agree to the following conditions:

_____ I agree to allow the investigators to apply the botanical piscicide rotenone twice along the shoreline of my pond on _____ (year, month, day) and _____ (year, month, day). Rotenone is a natural fish poison derived from the roots of several species of plants in the family Leguminosae (the bean/pea family) and will kill fish that encounter it. We will apply it at low concentrations in shallow water along the edge of the pond and thus the application method will kill baby bass and bluegill but should have a low impact on adult fish.

_____ I agree to allow the investigators to access my pond one day after each rotenone treatment, and an additional time 3 weeks after the second treatment, to pull a 15' X 4' net along the shoreline to assess reductions in baby bass (1-2 month old fish).

_____ I agree to allow the investigators to access my pond to conduct an electrofishing survey in spring to evaluate changes in the number of largemouth bass reaching age-1. During this electrofishing sample we will collect 40 largemouth bass for age determination.

_____ I agree to not manipulate my small impoundment in any way (e.g. stocking of fish, draining, extreme overharvesting) for one year from April 2018 – April 2019.

Upon completion of the sampling, we will provide you with written report to communicate the status of the fish population in your pond (lengths, weights, body condition, and relative abundance) and also to report on any changes that we documented following the shoreline rotenone treatment.

Participant's initials _____

Are there any risks to your pond? The risks associated with participating in this study are that it is possible that some adult largemouth bass and bluegill will be inadvertently killed by the rotenone application. To minimize these risks, we will apply the rotenone very close to shore in shallow water and after bass reproduction has ceased. However, we cannot guarantee that adult fish populations will be unaffected by the treatment and you may observe large fish that have succumbed to the rotenone. The low rates of rotenone that we will apply will create no risks for wildlife and/or humans in the area. Out of an abundance of caution, we recommend that the pond and surrounding shoreline be avoided the day of treatment and up to 48 hours after treatment to minimize contact with treated water and to not interfere with our follow-up fish netting activities.

Are there any benefits to your pond? If you participate in this study, your pond fish population may achieve a more desirable size structure consisting of lower densities of large bass that are of improved body condition and growth rates. However, we cannot promise you that your pond will receive any or all of the benefits described. You will receive no compensation for participating but there will be no costs to you.

If you change your mind about participating, you can withdraw at any time during the study. Your participation is completely voluntary. If you choose to withdraw, your data can be withdrawn as well. Your decision about whether or not to participate or to stop participating will not jeopardize your future relations with Auburn University School of Fisheries.

Your privacy will be protected. Any information obtained in connection with this study will remain anonymous (or confidential). If you have questions about this study, please ask them now or contact Dr. Matthew Catalano at 334-844-7366 or mjc0028@auburn.edu. A copy of this document will be given to you to keep.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Auburn University Office of Research Compliance (334)-844-5966.

HAVING READ THE INFORMATION PROVIDED, YOU MUST DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY. YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES YOUR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE.

Participant's signature

Date

Investigator obtaining consent

Date

Printed Name

Matthew J. Catalano

Printed Name

Co-Investigator

Date

Printed Name