03 April 2023

Dr. Dan Daugherty

Editor-in-Chief

*North American Journal of Fisheries Management*

Dear Dr. Daugherty,

Enclosed is a copy of a manuscript entitled “Evaluation of shoreline rotenone application to control Largemouth Bass recruitment in small impoundments” for possible publication in *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*. The manuscript has not been published and is not under consideration elsewhere. All authors fully agree with the paper’s contents.

The authors believe that this manuscript will be of great interest to the journal’s audience. We used a whole-impoundment before-after, control-impact study design to explore predator and prey density-dependent responses to shoreline rotenone application in 20 small impoundments. Largemouth Bass and Bluegill represent a commonly stocked and managed combination in North American small impoundments. Small impoundment fisheries management involves manipulating population densities to achieve desired growth rates and requested sizes of both Largemouth Bass and Bluegill. Therefore, small impoundment managers throughout North America would benefit from the development and enhancement of methods for controlling Largemouth Bass recruitment. We fit generalized linear mixed-effects models to test our shoreline rotenone application hypotheses. When applying shoreline rotenone, our results showed a significant reduction in Largemouth Bass recruitment—population density—and an increase in the average length of age-1 Largemouth Bass—compensatory density-dependent response—while Bluegill populations were not affected. Our study suggests that shoreline rotenone application may be a valuable tool for small impoundment management.

We’re excited to share our manuscript with you, particularly because it employs a novel management technique to enhance fish and fishery resources for societal benefits while advancing communication among fisheries managers at all levels of the fishery profession, aligning nicely with the journal’s mission.

We thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing the manuscript. If accepted, the authors will pay full page charges. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Tyler Steven Coleman

University of Florida

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