



STATE OF
MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



PHONE NO.

(612) 675-3301

FILE NO.

Area Fisheries Office
7372 State Highway 25 SW
Montrose, MN 55363
September 10, 1994

Dan Hinrichs &
Property Owners of Mink and Somers Lakes
1225 43 Ave. NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Dear Property Owners:

For some years we have jointly proposed to reclaim Mink and Somers Lakes and now it looks like that project will be completed in October 1994. The reclamation involves applying a fish toxicant, rotenone, to kill off existing fish populations which are composed of primarily populations of carp, crappies and bullheads.

The treatment will take place during the week of October 17 with most of the application to be done Monday through Wednesday, weather permitting. If you are interested and willing a cleanup day will be organized for Saturday, October 22.

One thing we want to emphasize is that dead and dying fish should not be consumed by humans. It is safe to do so, however, we recommend that you do not.

Restocking the lake will commence almost as soon as the lake de-toxifies. The first stocking will probably take place during the latter part of November 1994 with yellow perch. During spring 1995 the lake will be stocked with walleye fingerlings, bluegill and largemouth bass adults, and minnow species such as fatheads, possibly golden shiners and johnny darters.

We predict that water clarity will improve during the first couple of years after treatment since the carp are no longer stirring up the sediment. The downside of this is that aquatic vegetation may grow abundantly in the shallow portions of Mink Lake, especially. Please, we ask your patience in this area as the vegetation and water clarity will probably stabilize at some lower level in ensuing years.

I am going to propose that the lakes be closed to the harvest of all fish species during the second year of recovery. The purpose is to see how the fish populations develop and then

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propose regulations which will keep the fishery "excellent." Again, we ask your cooperation in this matter as we strive to create a fishery which is better than ordinary.

We thank you for your patience over the past several years. I know that many of you have sought this project for some time. As it works out it appears that this fall will be an excellent time for the reclamation. Water levels have receded to a more favorable level, the fish barrier appears to be working satisfactorily, and there have been developments in the rotenone application which have made it more cost effective to use.

A helicopter will be employed to spray the wetland area north of Mink Lake. The application of rotenone to the lakes themselves will be by boat. A dry form of the rotenone will be used on the lakes and it will be mixed with water to apply as a slurry. Since the fish cannot detect the dry form there won't be as much need to isolate spring seeps and tile inlets.

The application of the rotenone will be done under the most stringent of safety standards. For example, the helicopter application will not start or cease if wind speeds exceed 5 mph. Rotenone is not toxic to other life forms but it is our goal to apply this pesticide according to label directions and only on the water and marsh.

We ask to reserve the public access for our use during the treatment. Since the access is small there will be a minimum amount of room for observation. Also, some amount of rotenone dust may be generated and we don't want to have anyone exposed to that without the proper safety equipment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and concerns that you might have. Thank you for your interest in making Mink and Somers better lakes.

Yours truly,



Paul Diedrich
Area Fisheries Supervisor