

**From:** [Behen, Kenneth P. \(DFW\)](#)  
**To:** [jcoyle@hopsteiner.com](mailto:jcoyle@hopsteiner.com)  
**Cc:** [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#)  
**Subject:** re: comment on SEPA #23024  
**Date:** Monday, June 26, 2023 8:07:38 AM

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Jessica,

First, thank you for your comment regarding the proposed rotenone treatment of North Windmill Lake. WDFW takes all public comment into consideration before making a final decision to proceed with our lake and stream treatments. Your comments and questions are part of the official record for the 2023 treatment proposals. Your experience echoes comments we've received from other anglers regarding the quality of the Rainbow Trout fishing at North Windmill Lake. Before proposing this project, we conducted a gill net survey of North Windmill Lake. We did not collect any Rainbow Trout; however, we did collect numerous small Pumpkinseed Sunfish. As I'm sure you're aware, sunfish populations can quickly increase to the point they overwhelm food resources, such as zooplankton, which are incredibly important to trout. Competition for food resources can negatively impact trout growth and survival. Consequently, this also reduces trout abundance and eventually results in lower angler participation. Based on your concerns, as well as those of other experienced anglers, we will be conducting another gill net survey of North Windmill Lake well in advance of the proposed treatment date to re-assess the abundance of Rainbow Trout in the lake. The results of that survey will help us make a final decision on whether to proceed with the project.

Very Sincerely,  
Mike Schmuck  
WDFW  
District 5 Fish Biologist

&

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