



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fiftieth Legislature, Second Regular Session*

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1453

applying aquatic poisons

Purpose

Prohibits the Arizona Game and Fish Department from using rotenone or antimycin A unless an impact analysis is conducted and approved by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

Background

Fishery managers rely on a variety of tools to test and control fish populations. Aquatic poisons used to kill fish, or *piscicides*, are a commonly employed tool. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the states register or license piscicides for use. The EPA is authorized to register piscicides pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Rotenone is registered for use by the EPA in the U.S. and it is one of the most commonly used chemicals to kill aquatic life.

Since 1947, fishery managers have been using rotenone, which is applied directly to the water (either in a liquid or wettable powder form), in order to control fish populations. The EPA classified rotenone as a restricted use pesticide due to its acute inhalation, oral and aquatic toxicity.

In recent years, there has been an increase in public concern regarding the human health risks associated with the use of and exposure to rotenone and similar chemicals. Since 1990, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) have used rotenone as a fish removal tool in 22 waters.

The fiscal impact to the state General Fund is unknown.

Provisions

1. Prohibits AGFD from using rotenone or antimycin A prior to conducting and submitting a full impact analysis of any risks posed to the environment and downstream potable water supplies and livestock water sources.
2. Requires the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to issue written approval or disapproval of the analysis.
3. Requires AGFD to provide at least 10 days advance written notice to all owners, lessees and permittees of real property, including federal and state public lands, within a 10 mile radius of the point of application.

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4. Instructs AGFD to conduct soil and water analyses before applying rotenone and antimycin A to establish baseline levels.
5. Requires, after application, continuous monitoring of downstream levels in soil, potable water supplies and livestock water sources until pre-treatment baseline levels are achieved.
6. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

February 6, 2012

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