

## **Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus Statewide Regulations Anglers We Need Your Help in Slowing the Spread of Fish Diseases!**

A fish disease known as Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus was discovered in Michigan waters. The following regulations have been put in place to slow the spread of the disease. Check [www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing) for the official lists and changes.

### **DEFINITIONS**

As used in these regulations, specific terms are defined as follows:

**Baitfish** – live or dead species of fish, or parts of fish excluding roe, that are used by anglers to catch fish.

**Baitfish and Roe Exclusion Zone** - waters designated as critical to hatchery operations where possession and use of baitfish and roe as defined is prohibited.

**Certification Process** – a process used by the DNR to grant or deny applications from individuals who want to conduct certain activities that are regulated by the department.

**Inland Waters** – all public waters of the state except for the Great Lakes and their connecting waters.

**Pathogen** – viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites that cause disease in living organisms.

**Prohibited Fish Species** – Baitfish and other species of fish identified by the department as infected with VHSv.

**Roe** – eggs of fish.

**VHSv Free Management Area** - Lake Superior and all Inland waters in the watersheds of Lake Superior are classified as a VHSv Free Management Area (VHSv has not been found in these waters). All Inland waters in the watersheds of Lake Michigan including Grand Traverse bays and bays de Noc, and of the St. Marys River are classified as a VHSv Free Management Area, except for those tributaries to Lake Michigan including Grand Traverse bays and

bays de Noc, and to the St. Marys River that are classified as a VHSv Surveillance Area.

**VHSv Positive Management Area** - Lake Huron including Saginaw Bay, the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River, and Lake Erie are classified as a VHSv Positive Management Area (VHSv has been confirmed in these waters). All tributaries to Lake Huron including Saginaw Bay, to the St. Clair River, to Lake St. Clair, to the Detroit River, and to Lake Erie are classified as a VHSv Positive Management Area in their entirety or from their confluence upstream to the first barrier that prevents the upstream passage of fish if such a barrier exists. **VHSv has been documented in Budd Lake (Clare County) resulting in its addition to the VHSv Positive Management Area.**

**VHSv Surveillance Management Area** - Lake Michigan including Grand Traverse bays and bays de Noc, and the St. Marys River are classified as a VHSv Surveillance Management Area. All tributaries to Lake Michigan including Grand Traverse bays and bays de Noc, and to the St. Marys River are classified as a VHSv Surveillance Management Area in their entirety or from their confluence upstream to the first barrier that prevents the upstream passage of fish if such a barrier exists. All Inland Waters in the watersheds of Lake Huron including Saginaw Bay, of the St. Clair River, of Lake St. Clair, of the Detroit River, and of Lake Erie are classified as a VHSv Surveillance Management Area, except for those tributaries to Lake Huron including Saginaw Bay, to the St. Clair River, to Lake St. Clair, to the Detroit River, and to Lake Erie that are classified as a VHSv Positive Management Area.

### **BAITFISH AND ROE EXCLUSION ZONES**

The DNR has identified locations vital to the protection of hatchery operations in an effort to control or contain pathogen movement and reduce disease risks to these facilities. In these critical areas restrictions on the possession and subsequent use of baitfish and roe must be

implemented. **Therefore, baitfish and roe shall not be possessed on the following waters in Benzie, Chippewa and Marquette counties:**

**Benzie County:** Brundage Creek and tributaries Kinney Creek and Stanley Creek, from its confluence with the Platte River (T26N, R13W, S7), to their headwaters, including Brundage Spring Pond.

**Chippewa County:** Pendills Lake (T47N, R4W, S25, 26) including tributary Pendills Creek downstream to its confluence with Lake Superior (T47N, R4W, S28). Sullivan Creek from its headwaters (T46N, R4W, S32) downstream to its confluence with the North Branch of the Pine River (T45N, R4W, S23). Viddian Creek from its headwaters (T47N, R4W, S32) downstream to its confluence with Pendills Creek (T47N, R4W, S28).

**Marquette County:** Cherry Creek from the location of the Cherry Creek Road (T47N, R24W, S18) to the headwaters at County Road 480 (T47N, R25W, S22).

#### GENERAL STATEWIDE PROVISIONS

1. A person shall not stock baitfish or live fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, or roe taken from fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, in public waters of the state prior to receiving a Fish Stocking Permit from the department permitting such activity. **It shall be unlawful to import into this state any uncertified baitfish species found on the list of Prohibited Fish Species.** This also is a violation of the federal order.
2. If an approved Fish Stocking Permit is issued by the department, the permittee shall carry that Fish Stocking Permit with them when transporting and stocking baitfish or live fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, or roe taken from fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, in public waters of the state.
3. A retail customer shall retain and show upon request the receipt for purchases of baitfish or roe from a state-licensed baitfish retail operation. **A receipt shall be valid for 14 days for all certified baitfish (except frozen certified baitfish which will be good for 6 months). The receipt for all uncertified baitfish will be good for three days.** Required only when prohibited fish species are involved.
4. A person who catches fish in a lake or a Great Lake shall not release those fish alive in any public waters of the state if those fish are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, except that those fish may be released alive in that lake, or that Great Lake, or in a connecting body of water to that lake, or that Great Lake, so long as those fish can freely move between the original location of capture and the location of release. This provision does not apply to baitfish.
5. A person who catches fish in a stream shall not release those fish alive in any public waters of the state if those fish are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, except that those fish may be released alive in any part of that stream, or in a connecting body of water to that stream, so long as those fish can freely move between the original location of capture and the location of release. This provision does not apply to baitfish.
6. A person shall not use or otherwise release baitfish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, or roe harvested from fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, in any public waters of the state, unless that person is fishing and those baitfish or that roe are attached to a hook.
7. A person who **trailers** a boat over land shall drain all water from the live well(s) and the bilge of their boat upon leaving any body of water.

#### MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS FOR VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA VIRUS (VHSV)

**VHSV Positive Management Area:** On all waters designated within the VHSV Positive Management Area, the following regulations further

restrict the transportation, sale, use, and release of baitfish and fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, and roe taken from fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, that have not been approved as required under the department's certification process.

- A person who catches baitfish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, or harvests roe from fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, in a body of water that is included in the VHSV Positive Management Area shall not use or otherwise release those baitfish or that roe in any public waters of the state, except that those baitfish or that roe may be used in any waters included in the VHSV Positive Management Area subject to Provision 6 above.
- A person who purchases baitfish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, or purchases roe from fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, shall not use or otherwise release those baitfish or that roe in any public waters of the state, except that those baitfish or that roe may be used in any waters included in the VHSV Positive Management Area subject to Provision 6 above.

**VHSV Surveillance Management Area:** On all waters designated within the VHSV Surveillance Management Area, the following regulations further restrict the transportation, sale, use, and release of baitfish and fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, and roe taken from fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, that have not been approved as required under the department's certification process.

- A person who catches baitfish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, or harvests roe from fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species in a body of water that is included in the VHSV Surveillance Management Area shall not use or otherwise release those baitfish or that roe in any public waters of the state, except that those baitfish or that roe may be used in any waters included in either the VHSV Positive Management Area or the VHSV Surveillance Management Area subject to Provision 6 above.
- A person who purchases baitfish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, or purchases roe from fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, shall not use or otherwise release those baitfish or that roe in any public waters of the state, except that those baitfish or that roe may be used in any waters included in either the VHSV Positive Management Area or the VHSV Surveillance Management Area subject to Provision 6 above.

**VHSV Free Management Area:** On all waters designated within the VHSV Free Management Area, the following regulations apply to the transportation, sale, use, and release of baitfish and fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, and roe taken from fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, that have not been approved as required under the department's certification process.

- A person who catches baitfish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, or harvests roe from fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species in a body of water that is included in the VHSV Free Management Area may use those baitfish or that roe in any public waters of the state, subject to Provision 6 above.
- A person who purchases baitfish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, or purchases roe from fish that are listed as Prohibited Fish Species, that has been harvested from a body of water included in the VHSV Free Management Area may use those baitfish or that roe in any public waters of the state, subject to Provision 6 above.

The official lists indicating Management Area designations and Prohibited Fish Species are located online at [www.michigan.gov/dnr/fishing](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/fishing).

**This table lists the Prohibited Fish Species for VHSV as identified by the department as of Dec. 4, 2008.**

Black crappie	Chinook salmon	Muskellunge	Round goby	White bass
Bluegill	Coho salmon	Northern pike	Shorthead redhorse	White perch
Bluntnose minnow	Emerald shiner	Pacific herring	Silver redhorse	Yellow perch
Brown bullhead	Freshwater drum	Pink salmon	Smallmouth bass	White sucker
Brown trout	Gizzard shad	Pumpkinseed	Spottail shiner	
Burbot	Lake whitefish	Rainbow trout	Trout perch	
Channel catfish	Largemouth bass	Rock bass	Walleye	