


## **07hr\_JCR-AR\_Misc\_pt32**



 Details: Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) rule information, Department of Natural Resources.

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

## 2007-08

(session year)

## Joint

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

## Committee for Review of Administrative Rules...

### COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

### INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
  - (**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
  - (**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                      (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY Access via relay - 711

February 15, 2008

Senator Mark Miller  
Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Subject: Request for Further Stocking Information from January 29<sup>th</sup> Hearing

Dear Senator Miller:

This letter is a response to the request from your committee for some additional information regarding fish propagation activities by the Department of Natural Resources. The additional information was requested by Senator Dale Schultz during your January 29<sup>th</sup> hearing on the Department's VHS rules.

Please refer to the November 13, 2007 letter from DNR Secretary Matthew Frank for the originally requested information on fish stocking activities and costs. Senator Schultz requested an additional breakdown of the overall stocking numbers for 2006 and 2007 to exclude DNR Coop Ponds which – while receiving fish and eggs from Department sources – are generally run by conservation groups, schools and other non-governmental organizations with the resulting fish stocked back into public waters. He also wanted a better comparison of production and costs. We have also taken this opportunity to update the 2007 table to reflect the entire year of stocking and added 2007 expenditure information.

During calendar year 2006, we stocked 14,969,383 fry and 9,153,012 fingerlings, yearlings and adults from hatcheries and ponds run exclusively by the DNR. The difference between the earlier table and this one shows that DNR cooperators stocked 0 fry but an additional 272,376 larger fish in Wisconsin waters in 2006. The attached table shows a more detailed breakdown by species and age class. Final information from 2007 shows that DNR facilities stocked 10,626,348 fry and 8,509,919 fingerlings, yearlings and adults. The attached table shows the more detailed breakdown.

Also we now have compiled expenditure information for state fiscal year 2007 (2006 was included in the November 13 letter). Expenditures for fish propagation activities during this period were \$6,284,867 which will be published in our next Fish and Wildlife Annual Report in the near future. This is a comprehensive accounting which includes all aspects of fish spawn collection, fish hatchery maintenance and operations, and distribution to stocked waters. To facilitate comparisons of fish produced and overall costs, I have also included tables of our fish production by comparable 2006 and 2007 fiscal years. Note that these tables do include the DNR coop stockings since these costs are also included in the expenditure totals. Also, please be aware that a straight comparison on costs and stocking for a given time period is not necessarily the best analysis since costs from one time period actually accrue to stockings that occur in a future time period – though this is the accounting system that we have available to us. We have contracted for with the UW-Green Bay Department of Economics and Business to develop a more standard accounting model and we expect the results in later this year. In the interim, however, the production and overall cost numbers supplied will allow a general comparison.

I hope that this information meets your needs. If you have any further questions about this information please feel free to contact me at 608-267-0796 or [mike.staggs@wisconsin.gov](mailto:mike.staggs@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Staggs", with a stylized, flowing script.

Michael Staggs, Director  
Bureau of Fisheries Management

cc      Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
         Matthew Frank, AD/5  
         Todd Ambs, AD/5  
         Amber Meyer Smith, AD/5

***Summary of number of fish stocked by species, and age class for  
January 01, 2006 thru December 31, 2006 for DNR Hatcheries, and  
DNR Ponds***

Species	Age Class	No. Stocked
BROOK TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	823
BROOK TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	123,688
BROOK TROUT	SMALL FINGERLING	89,295
BROOK TROUT	YEARLING	76,893
BROWN TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	4,158
BROWN TROUT	FALL YEARLING	517
BROWN TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	754,653
BROWN TROUT	SMALL FINGERLING	683,249
BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	803,266
CHINOOK SALMON	SMALL FINGERLING	1,283,480
COHO SALMON	LARGE FINGERLING	173,918
COHO SALMON	YEARLING	263,826
LAKE STURGEON	FALL YEARLING	233
LAKE STURGEON	LARGE FINGERLING	17,801
LAKE STURGEON	SMALL FINGERLING	3,706
LAKE STURGEON	YEARLING	1,461
LAKE TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	27,749
LAKE TROUT	YEARLING	86,420
MUSKELLUNGE	FRY	163,093
MUSKELLUNGE	LARGE FINGERLING	65,453
MUSKELLUNGE	YEARLING	520
NORTHERN PIKE	FRY	378,000
NORTHERN PIKE	LARGE FINGERLING	41,395
NORTHERN PIKE	SMALL FINGERLING	217,838
RAINBOW TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	1,707
RAINBOW TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	49,221
RAINBOW TROUT	SMALL FINGERLING	38,980

Species	Age Class	No. Stocked
RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	777,420
SPLAKE (I22 X I23)	LARGE FINGERLING	117,353
SPLAKE (I22 X I23)	YEARLING	44,088
WALLEYE	FRY	14,428,290
WALLEYE	LARGE FINGERLING	126,421
WALLEYE	SMALL FINGERLING	3,277,480

***Summary of number of fish stocked by species and age class for  
January 01, 2007 thru December 31, 2007 for DNR Hatcheries, and  
DNR Ponds***

Species	Age Class	No. Stocked
BROOK TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	992
BROOK TROUT	FALL YEARLING	360
BROOK TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	128,765
BROOK TROUT	SMALL FINGERLING	87,973
BROOK TROUT	YEARLING	89,060
BROWN TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	3,433
BROWN TROUT	FALL YEARLING	936
BROWN TROUT	FRY	69,955
BROWN TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	1,018,535
BROWN TROUT	SMALL FINGERLING	318,045
BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	864,547
CHINOOK SALMON	SMALL FINGERLING	1,145,248
COHO SALMON	FALL YEARLING	19,500
COHO SALMON	LARGE FINGERLING	288,071
COHO SALMON	YEARLING	335,494
LAKE STURGEON	LARGE FINGERLING	221
LAKE TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	141,113
LAKE TROUT	YEARLING	112,589
MUSKELLUNGE	FALL YEARLING	854
MUSKELLUNGE	LARGE FINGERLING	53,368
NORTHERN PIKE	FRY	2,134,594
NORTHERN PIKE	LARGE FINGERLING	39,999
NORTHERN PIKE	SMALL FINGERLING	350
RAINBOW TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	2,196
RAINBOW TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	247,042
RAINBOW TROUT	SMALL FINGERLING	17,000
RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	803,542
SPLAKE (I22 X I23)	LARGE FINGERLING	137,566
SPLAKE (I22 X I23)	YEARLING	45,854

Species	Age Class	No. Stocked
WALLEYE	FRY	8,421,799
WALLEYE	LARGE FINGERLING	70,111
WALLEYE	SMALL FINGERLING	402,561

***Summary of fish stocked by species, and age class for July 01, 2005  
thru June 30, 2006 for DNR Hatcheries, DNR Ponds, and DNR  
Coop Ponds***

Species	Age Class	No. Stocked
BROOK TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	583
BROOK TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	120,351
BROOK TROUT	SMALL FINGERLING	120,042
BROOK TROUT	YEARLING	109,246
BROWN TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	2,803
BROWN TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	987,470
BROWN TROUT	SMALL FINGERLING	730,255
BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	858,204
CHINOOK SALMON	SMALL FINGERLING	1,411,968
COHO SALMON	LARGE FINGERLING	208,883
COHO SALMON	YEARLING	263,826
LAKE STURGEON	LARGE FINGERLING	31,129
LAKE STURGEON	SMALL FINGERLING	15,316
LAKE STURGEON	YEARLING	350
LAKE TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	56,544
LAKE TROUT	YEARLING	106,526
MUSKELLUNGE	FRY	163,093
MUSKELLUNGE	LARGE FINGERLING	102,433
MUSKELLUNGE	YEARLING	446
NORTHERN PIKE	FRY	378,000
NORTHERN PIKE	LARGE FINGERLING	26,906
NORTHERN PIKE	SMALL FINGERLING	217,838
RAINBOW TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	1,700
RAINBOW TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	62,076
RAINBOW TROUT	SMALL FINGERLING	26,296
RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	777,420
SPLAKE (I22 X I23)	LARGE FINGERLING	47,516

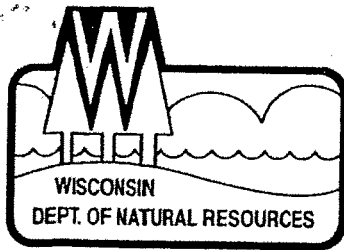


Species	Age Class	No. Stocked
WALLEYE	FRY	14,428,290
WALLEYE	LARGE FINGERLING	69,956
WALLEYE	SMALL FINGERLING	3,608,597

***Summary of fish stocked by species, and age class for July 01, 2006  
thru June 30, 2007 for DNR Hatcheries, DNR Ponds, and DNR  
Coop Ponds***

Species	Age Class	No. Stocked
BLACK CRAPPIE	LARGE FINGERLING	2,467
BROOK TROUT	YEARLING	119,725
BROOK TROUT	SMALL FINGERLING	21,246
BROOK TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	134,998
BROOK TROUT	FALL YEARLING	700
BROOK TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	823
BROWN TROUT	YEARLING	910,703
BROWN TROUT	SMALL FINGERLING	54,751
BROWN TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	764,499
BROWN TROUT	FRY	69,955
BROWN TROUT	FALL YEARLING	2,398
BROWN TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	5,569
CHINOOK SALMON	SMALL FINGERLING	1,052,875
COHO SALMON	YEARLING	324,970
COHO SALMON	LARGE FINGERLING	173,918
LAKE STURGEON	YEARLING	1,111
LAKE STURGEON	SMALL FINGERLING	3,706
LAKE STURGEON	LARGE FINGERLING	17,801
LAKE STURGEON	FALL YEARLING	233
LAKE TROUT	YEARLING	112,589
LAKE TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	33,074
MUSKELLUNGE	YEARLING	74
MUSKELLUNGE	LARGE FINGERLING	65,989
NORTHERN PIKE	SMALL FINGERLING	350
NORTHERN PIKE	LARGE FINGERLING	36,533
NORTHERN PIKE	FRY	2,134,594
RAINBOW TROUT	YEARLING	792,760

Species	Age Class	No. Stocked
RAINBOW TROUT	SMALL FINGERLING	29,684
RAINBOW TROUT	LARGE FINGERLING	49,221
RAINBOW TROUT	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	1,707
SPLAKE (I22 X I23)	YEARLING	89,942
SPLAKE (I22 X I23)	LARGE FINGERLING	87,096
WALLEYE	SMALL FINGERLING	28,697
WALLEYE	LARGE FINGERLING	128,473
WALLEYE	FRY	10,961,799
YELLOW PERCH	LARGE FINGERLING	112



cc: ~~Final~~ Stagg  
final

State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

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November 13, 2007

Senator Mark Miller  
Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Subject: Request for Information on Fish Stocking

Dear Senator Miller:

This letter is a response to the request from your committee for information regarding fish propagation activities by the Department of Natural Resources.

During calendar year 2006, we stocked 14,969,383 fry and 9,425,388 fingerlings, yearlings, and adults in Wisconsin's waters. The attached table provides a detailed breakdown of 2006 stocking by species, strain and age class.

Through October 15<sup>th</sup> of calendar year 2007, we have stocked 13,166,348 fry and 5,600,128 fingerlings, yearlings and adults in the state. The attached table provides a detailed breakdown of 2007 stocking to date by species, strain and age class. We have not yet completed all of our stocking for the year. We expect that another 90,000 brown trout, 120,000 rainbow trout, 20,000 brook trout and additional walleye, northern pike, and muskellunge (exact number of fish remaining in the ponds will not be known until they are harvested) will be added to the final stocking numbers.

For calendar year 2007, we had quota requests to stock 46,245,490 fry and 9,648,432 older fish. The attached table provides a detailed breakdown of the stocking quotas for 2007 by species and age class.

After the discovery of VHS in Little Lake Butte des Morts and Lake Winnebago in early May, we placed a moratorium on all DNR field operations involving live fish – including stocking from hatcheries. We did a comprehensive review of all operations which included extensive VHS testing of brood stocks, production fish, and hatchery water supplies, modified our operations to minimize the risk of spreading VHS and resumed appropriate stocking and other field operations in late June. A copy of our revised operational plan can be found on our website at: [http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/documents/VHS%20Hatchery%20Plan%20v06\\_27\\_2007.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/documents/VHS%20Hatchery%20Plan%20v06_27_2007.pdf). Although we never did find any evidence of VHS in our system, there was a slight risk of exposure at three facilities that, prior to our discovery of VHS in Lake Winnebago, had received eggs from Lake Puckaway which is one pool upstream. To minimize any chance of spreading VHS, we euthanized and disposed of a small proportion of our production fish that could not be stocked back into VHS positive waters, raised to a size where it was cost effective to stock them or that could not be stocked before the available food supply ran out during the moratorium. Known losses include:

- 25,000 fingerling lake sturgeon, 1,000 yearling lake sturgeon and 500,000 domestic brown trout fry at the old Wild Rose Hatchery.
- 100,000 coho salmon fingerlings and 350 northern pike fingerlings from the Lake Mills Hatchery.

- 100 fingerling sauger from the Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery.
- 105,104 walleye fingerlings from Art Oehmcke State Fish Hatchery.

We were also not able to meet some other expected quotas because of operational changes required to minimize the chance of spreading VHS, or losses that occurred during the moratorium. Exact numbers are not available at this time because we have not completed fall stocking of these fishes or were unable to quantify the losses in a pond situation. Other operational losses likely included:

- Great Lakes spotted muskellunge at Old Wild Rose Hatchery, no eggs taken.
- Walleye and northern pike from Lake Mills State Hatchery, unable to harvest ponds.
- Walleye and muskellunge from Art Oehmcke State Hatchery, unable to harvest ponds, timely feeding was not possible.
- Walleye, northern pike and muskellunge from Gov. Tommy Thompson State Hatchery, unable to harvest ponds, timely feeding was not possible.
- Muskellunge from West Central Region ponds, not allowed to do fry transfers.
- Northern pike from West Central Region ponds, timely feeding was not possible.
- Unable to transfer brown trout fingerlings to outlying rearing stations, some fish lost due to stress. We are still stocking fish.
- Coho could not be transferred to outlying rearing stations this year, we will exceed the normal stocking of fingerlings and not be able to stock the full quota of yearlings. Fall stocking records are not yet complete.

Although we were not able to stock all of the fish that we had planned in 2007, the biosecurity operational changes that we are implementing for 2008 should assure that we do not have to euthanize fish in the future.

Our state fiscal year 2006 expenditures for fish propagation activities were \$5.4 million as documented in our annual Fish and Wildlife Annual Report ([http://dnr.wi.gov/invest/conservation/fwreports/fwreport05\\_06.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/invest/conservation/fwreports/fwreport05_06.pdf)). Our Bureau of Finance is still compiling the comparable number for state fiscal year 2007 but I would be pleased to provide the committee with a copy of the next Annual Report when it is completed.

I hope that this information meets your needs. If you have any further questions about this information please feel free to contact me, or our Fisheries Management Bureau Director Mike Staggs.

Sincerely,

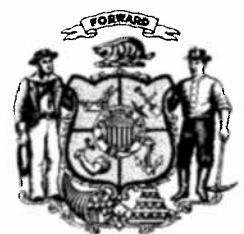


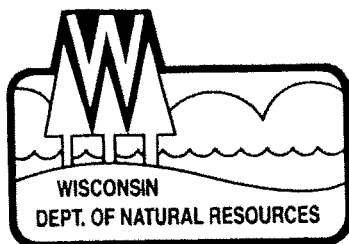
Matthew Frank, Secretary

cc Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Mike Staggs, FH/4



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
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TTY Access via relay - 711

February 15, 2008

Senator Mark Miller  
Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Subject: Request for Further Information on Commercial Fishing from January 29<sup>th</sup> Hearing

Dear Senator Miller:

This letter is a response to the request from your committee for some additional information regarding commercial fishing licensing reviews by the Department of Natural Resources. The additional information was requested during your January 29<sup>th</sup> hearing on the Department's VHS rules.

The committee requested additional information about Department reviews of commercial fishing license minimum catch hardship waiver requests over the past five years. For renewal in the 2003-2004 license year there were no fishers who failed to meet the minimum. In the 2004-2005 license year, 7 fishers failed, in 2005-2006 1 failed, in 2006-2007 4 failed and 2007-2008, 5 failed. Of these, we denied only the Todd Ruleau license in the 06-07 license year and the Andy LaFond license this past year. So, of the 17 fishers who failed to meet the catch requirement during that period, only 2 were denied. These 2 individuals were denied not only because they failed to meet the harvest requirement but also because there were additional circumstances showing they were no longer active fishers including residency and the sale of the fishing vessel.

We also looked into Mr. Dennis Hickey's concern that the appeals process can take too long. As he indicated in the hearing, none of his family licenses have ever had to go through the appeal process but we think he was referring to a 2006 request from Jay Virlee who fishes with the Hickeys. Here are the details on Mr. Virlee's renewal application and subsequent license issuance for the 2006-2007 license year. Mr. Virlee submitted a timely and complete application with license fee. He reported harvesting a total of 12,509 lbs. of chubs and whitefish in Zone 2 which was 1,147 lbs short of the 13,656 lbs required to be relicensed. We received Jay's last 2005-2006 catch report on July 7, 2006 and sent Jay an intent to deny letter on July 11, 2006. We received his unavoidable circumstance letter on July 18th and issued him his license on July 27th. While we believe this is a reasonable turn around time for this type of transaction, the timing of being in the middle of the season can create problems. The industry has asked us to consider changing the license year from fiscal to calendar which could address this problem.

I hope that this information meets your needs. If you have any further questions about this information please feel free to contact me at 608-267-0796 or [mike.staggs@wisconsin.gov](mailto:mike.staggs@wisconsin.gov).

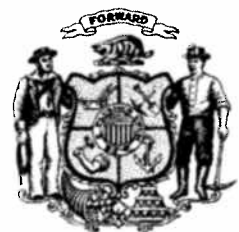
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Staggs", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Staggs, Director  
Bureau of Fisheries Management

cc      Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
         Matthew Frank, AD/5  
         Todd Ambs, AD/5  
         Amber Meyer Smith, AD/5





**Barry, Sarah**

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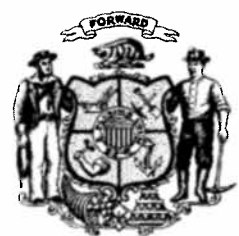
**From:** Smith, Amber M - DNR [Amber.Smith@Wisconsin.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2008 1:26 PM  
**To:** Bruhn, Mike; Bier, Beth; Kanninen, Dan; Barry, Sarah; Grothman, Jeffrey  
**Subject:** VHS Update

Just as an FYI, the "green sheet" on the VHS rule will be made public tomorrow. The "green sheet" is the amended proposal we present to the Natural Resources Board for their action. This green sheet includes the provisions that we have all discussed regarding re-use of bait. I wanted to let you know because the media have been asking about it already, and trying to get a heads up on what our new proposal will be. We're holding them off until Wednesday when the green sheet is public.

I'll send it to you tomorrow when the link is up on our website.

 *Amber Meyer Smith*

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# Plugging hole in the dike: weed, viral invaders

County Journal  
2/21

By Dan Satran Jr.  
Editor

Many move to this area, or stay here, because it is so unspoiled.

Threatening the water quality, and its fish population, are two potential invaders, eurasian water milfoil (EWM) and the virus, viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), (among others).

Heading efforts to control the unwanted plants, and to some extent the fish virus, is Stefania Strzalkowska, the county's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program coordinator.

If that isn't enough acronyms, she works closely with the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Dept. of Agriculture, Trade

and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in the fight against VHS.

Maybe life used to be simpler or maybe enough wasn't known about what could undermine the pristine of the natural world that surrounds those living in Bayfield County. Members of the county's AIS Committee have been asked to take on especially this plant invasion. With Strzalkowska as a leader, they have come up with a strategic plan that is expected to be approved by the county board this spring. The intent is to have it in place before ice-out. That's important, she said, because the troublesome plants, the invaders, are hardy enough to live through the sometimes rather extremely

cold winters here.

The strategic plan is also important because it would live on even if Strzalkowska's work comes to a screeching halt at the end of this year when the grant-funding for it ends. Holding a Master's in the related field of zoology, having taken classes in botany which is the study of plants, she was a natural for the job, when the county had the position funded with a grant. This allowed them to hire someone in September 2006. Funding runs out at the end of this year. She said there is a good chance, though, that the grant will be renewed. But state awards on on a competitive

Continued on Page 2  
See INVADERS

# Aquaculture Facility conducts industry, VHS research

By RON JOHNSON

For The Daily Press

5/11

Aquaculture, or fish farming, is the fastest growing segment of food-based agriculture world-wide with over \$77 billion of aquaculture products being sold each year. The Wisconsin aquaculture industry produces over \$7 million worth of fish — raising them for food, bait, recreation and stocking — compared to \$1 billion in sales for the United States.

Americans consume 16.8 lbs per person of seafood (including fish) each year, with 80 percent of that being imported. Locally produced aquaculture is becoming more important as wild fish stocks diminish and as the concern for safe, fresh food products grows. Wisconsin has over 2,100 registered fish farms but only about 150 of those are considered commercial producers and the largest number of farms is located in Southeastern Wisconsin.

The City of Ashland recognized that aquaculture may be a way to increase the sustainable development of rural areas and in 1986 was awarded an Agricultural Development and Diversification Grant (ADD) from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to look at the feasibility of fish farming in northern Wisconsin. What grew out of that initial grant was the need for a research/demonstration facility to help "promote and advance the development of commercial aquaculture in a



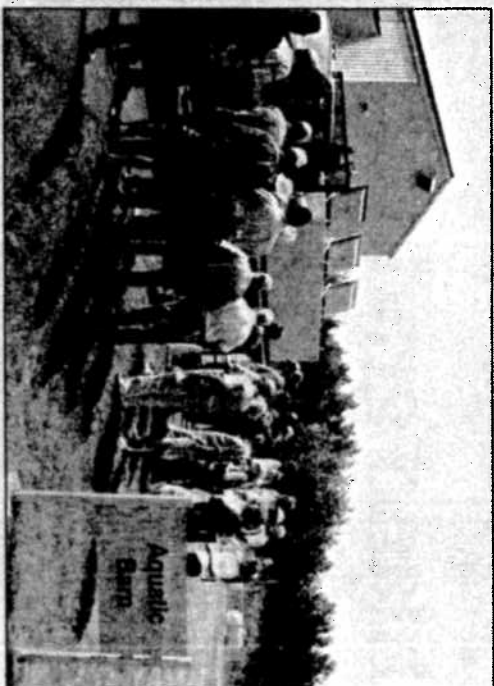
JOHNSON

northern climate."

The Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility (NADF), located in Red Cliff, is a result of the hard work by many state, tribal, industry and community leaders with outcomes highlighted from that original ADD grant.

NADF is part of the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and is located on land leased from the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Since its opening in 2005, NADF has been demonstrating full scale aquaculture production and applied research projects on species such as yellow perch, Lake Superior brook trout, lake trout, walleye and lake herring.

In 2007, the University of Wisconsin-Extension hired three aquaculture outreach specialists, one position located at NADF and the other two in central and southern Wisconsin, to provide educational and outreach programs for fish farmers across the state.



Submitted Photo

**AQUAMEN AND WOMEN** — Researchers, fish farmers and others gathered recently at the Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility in Red Cliff.

These specialists have conducted over 50 farm visits along with help and information on weed control, pond management, permits, propagation and assisting with fish production problems.

The applied research and extension projects at NADF are industry-driven and relate to current issues or concerns that the Wisconsin aquaculture industry feels are important. In 2007, viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), a lethal fish virus (which does not affect humans) was discovered in Wisconsin and caused great concern for both wild and farmed fish. Staff at NADF responded by conducting four workshops, both in Red Cliff and around the state, discussing VHS as a disease, biosecurity, egg disinfection and training to comply with new state and federal rules.

VHS has been a hot topic for fishermen, boaters, and lake homeowners, along with natural resource agencies and fish farmers. NADF aquaculture extension specialists have also given presentations to many civic and lake associations so that current facts and recommendations can be discussed. This is a disease that can be spread by affected fish or bait and by contaminated water, so all of us have a responsibility to be vigilant and clean our water craft before moving from one water body to another and to not transfer live bait or fish to another water body.

Both the Bayfield High School and Ashland High School aquaculture classes have taken advantage of NADF, bringing classes out to learn with a hands-on approach and involve students

with water quality testing, fish health assessments, grading/sorting and learning first-hand about aquaculture. In order to bring more awareness about the importance of aquaculture to the schools, NADF, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association (WAA), sponsored the first annual state wide Aquaculture Poster Contest in which Kiel High School won first place.

NADF is open to the public on Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is recommended groups call ahead to make arrangements (715) 779-3461.

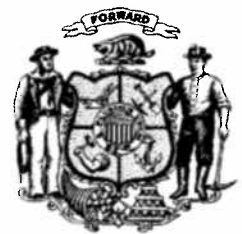
On June 12-13, NADF and WAA are hosting the second annual Aquaculture Field Days and Vendor Fair with presentations about fish health, feeding, weed control and biosecurity along with practical skill sessions and vendors. Last year there were over 100 people in attendance. Highlights of the event will also be an Apostle Islands boat tour and fish fry luncheon. For more information on aquaculture and registration for the Field Day events, contact Ron Johnson.

I will be making a presentation on VHS at the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference at Telemark Resort in Cable on June 20, and for the National Parks Service Apostle Islands Summer Lecture on July 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Ron Johnson is an aquaculture outreach specialist. He can be reached at (715) 779-3189 or by e-mail at [Ron.johnson@uwsp.edu](mailto:Ron.johnson@uwsp.edu).



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



①

RE: FM-22-06

APRIL 3, 2008

VHS ISSUE

- 1) VHS ISSUES WERE NOT ALLOWED INTO TOURNAMENT POLICY RULE MAKING PROCESS.
- 2) VHS IS IN FISHERY OF THE WINNER-AGO SYSTEM & MANY TOURNAMENTS WILL TAKE PLACE THERE IN APRIL & MAY & JUNE.
- 3) VHS IS SPREAD TO OTHER FISH WHEN THEY ARE "STRESSED" (CAUGHT & HELD FOR 6-8 HRS. IN A LIVEWELL.)
- 4) VHS IS SPREAD FROM FISH URINE & OTHER BODY FLUIDS WHEN IN CLOSE PROXIMITY.
- 5) MOST TOURNAMENTS ALLOW 10 FISH (SO IS POSSIBLE) TO BE HELD & LATER RELEASED TO INFECT OTHER FISH.
- 6) RELEASING FISH SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED FOR THE ABOVE REASONS!!  
BOB CHOJNOWSKI (715) 544-0058

②

RE: FM-22-06

OTHER ISSUES

- 1) TOTALLY DISREGARD PRESENT DNR POLICY NR 1.91 - "PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS STANDARDS."
- 2) FUNDING → \$235,705.60 WAS THE FIGURE GIVEN 1ST FOR "TOTAL TOURNAMENT ANNUAL COST." THEN FIGURES OF \$94,000 + \$76,000 WAS GIVEN. IN FM-22-06 A FIGURE OF ONLY \$32,796 / YEAR IS GIVEN. THIS IS AMAZING, FROM \$235,000 TO \$32,796 / YEAR.
- 3) A) ALSO THE DNR BOARD BACKED OFF OF THEIR POSITION THAT NO SEG FUNDS WOULD BE USED FOR TOURNAMENTS. 20,000 ANGLERS FISH TOURNAMENTS IN WI / YEAR. A \$25 FEE WAS TO BE PAID BY EACH PARTICIPANT TO COVER PAST BASS TOURNAMENT RESEARCH → THIS WAS DROPPED.
- 3) FM-22-06 IS "DISCRIMINATORY IN NATURE." T.Y. BOB CHOJNOWSKI



December 15, 2007

RESOLUTION

THE D.N.R. SHOULD TRY TO BETTER CONTROL "VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA" (V.H.S.)  
DURING FISHING TOURNAMENTS IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

- 1) WHERE AS: V.H.S. can be easily spread to other non-infected fish  
in close proximity.
  - 2) WHERE AS: Tournament Fishing confines fish in live wells for  
hours at a time, and encourages releasing fish after weighing in.
  - 3) WHERE AS: If only one fish in the livewell carry V.H.S. the  
other nine released fish could be infected and further spread the disease.
  - 4) WHERE AS: There are many tournaments in Wisconsin waters each  
year with many participants.
  - 5) WHERE AS: The D.N.R., and the D.N.R. Board and our Legislature  
have the responsibility to protect our fishery for all of Wisconsin citizens.
  - 6) WHERE AS: Tournament Fishing rules would require an "Immediate"  
Fish Release (without taking possession) after fish weight or lengths  
were taken, or could be changed to lower catch limits (2 or 3), and a  
NON-RELEASE policy be in place for the 2008 Tournament season in all Wisconsin waters.
  - 7) WHERE AS: Tournament Sponsors would be responsible for  
harvesting fish and donating these fish to food pantries etc.
  - 8) WHERE AS: Muskellunge and Salmon/Trout Tournaments would be  
exempt from this policy change.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
Legislative Committee unanimously supports this resolution. We ask that  
the D.N.R., D.N.R. Board and the Legislature address this situation to  
help stop the spread of "VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA" (VHS) in our Wisconsin waters.

SUBMITTED BY: Robert M. Chojnowski  
3251 Mirage Circle  
Plover, Wisconsin 54467  
(715)544-0056

October 19, 2000

RESOLUTION

THE D.N.R. SHOULD TRY TO BETTER CONTROL "VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA" (V.H.S.)

DURING FISHING TOURNAMENTS IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

WHERE AS: V.H.S. can be easily spread to other non-infected fish in close proximity.

WHERE AS: Tournament Fishing confines fish in live wells for hours at a time, and encourages releasing fish after weighing in.

WHERE AS: If only one fish in the livewell carry V.H.S. the other nine released fish could be infected and further spread the disease.

WHERE AS: There are many tournaments in Wisconsin waters each year with many participants.

WHERE AS: The D.N.R., the D.N.R. Board and our Legislature have the responsibility to protect our fishery for all of Wisconsin citizens.

WHERE AS: Tournament Fishing rules could be changed to lower catch limits (2 or 3), and a NON-RELEASE policy be in place for the 2008 Tournament season in all Wisconsin waters.

WHERE AS: Tournament Sponsors would be responsible for harvesting fish and donating these fish to food pantries etc.

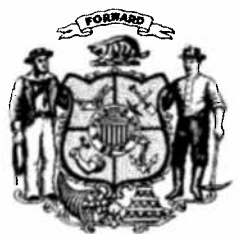
WHERE AS: Muskellunge and Salmon/Trout Tournaments would be exempt from this policy change.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's Inland Fisheries Committee supports this resolution. We ask that the D.N.R., D.N.R. Board and the Legislature address this situation to help stop the spread of "VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA" (VHS) in our Wisconsin waters.

SUBMITTED BY: Robert M. Chojnowski  
3251 Mirage Circle  
Plover, Wisconsin 54467  
(715) 544-0058



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



12:23 - DNR Rule Jurisdiction  
Borchenowski Portage  
715 544 0058

FM -

2206

FM 22-06

Fishing tournaments

Approved DNR board Jan 22-23

minutes from Mtg - 9 spoke against, 1 in  
favor  
re chain portage - co.

Conserv Congress / wild Federation -  
passed resolution

Bob C 22@earthlink.net -  
press release

NHS - concerns in tournament -

- Funding SLG funds -