

 **07hr\_SC-ENR\_CRule\_07-074\_pt01**



(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

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

**2007-08**

(session year)

**Senate**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Environment and Natural  
Resources (SC-ENR)**

**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 ... **HR** ... **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**

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

**Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

**Clearinghouse Rule 07-074**

Relating to control of fish diseases and invasive species.  
Submitted by Department of Natural Resources.

December 10, 2007 Referred to Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

January 29, 2008 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Miller, Jauch, Wirch, Kedzie and  
Schultz.  
Absent: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Mike Staggs, Madison — Department of Natural Resources

Appearances Against

- Roger Breske, Eland — Senator, 12th Senate District
- James Mecikalski, Eagle River — Fishing Guides
- Joel Taylor, Omro — himself
- Terry Hogan, Hayward — Hayward Bait
- David Gollon — Wisconsin Aquaculture Association/ Gollon  
Bait & Fish Farm

Appearances for Information Only

- Cliff Crichton, McFarland — himself

Registrations For

- George Meyer, Madison — Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

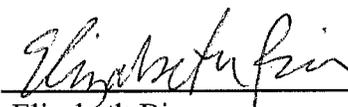
Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

February 8, 2008 No action taken.

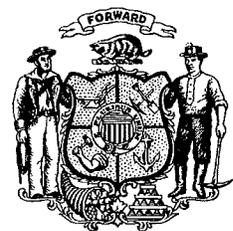


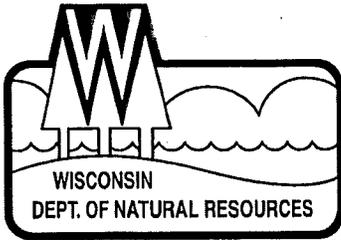
---

Elizabeth Bier  
Committee Clerk



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  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY Access via relay - 711

### Joint Legislative Hearing on Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia November 7, 2007 Testimony of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

#### Overview

The discovery of the fish disease Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) in Wisconsin's waters represents a significant fish health issue. While VHS is not a human health concern, this disease has demonstrated the potential to cause large fish kills and long term reductions in wild fish populations, and severe economic losses for aquaculture operations. Regardless of the impacts on Wisconsin's fisheries, VHS is an internationally reportable disease subject to state and federal regulations to prevent its movement, and these regulations have the potential to seriously impact Wisconsin's aquaculture, bait and live fish industries.

Even the perception that VHS may have had an impact could be very costly for Wisconsin. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Census Bureau recently released their newest survey of fishing activity in the US. In 2006, there were 1.4 licensed million anglers who fished 21 millions days in Wisconsin. That effort generated \$2.9 billion in economic activity, supported 31,350 jobs and contributed \$203 million in state income and sales taxes. Wisconsin continues to rank 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation in the number of non-resident fishing days (trailing only Florida). If anglers perceive that fishing has declined in Wisconsin – whether it has or not – they could choose to fish in other states with difficult economic consequences.

Since VHS was identified in Wisconsin waters in April, 2007, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has worked closely with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, the Wisconsin Fish and Bait Dealers Association, and other concerned members of the public to develop a comprehensive program to help prevent the spread of VHS in Wisconsin's public waters and aquaculture operations. This task has not been easy because VHS can be easily spread by the movement of infected live fish – including bait fish, and contaminated water, boats and fishing equipment. Also there are literally millions of people affected. Wisconsin has approximately 1.4 million licensed anglers, 625,000 registered boats, 2,200 registered fish farms, 800 registered bait dealers, and 85 permitted wild bait harvesters participating in activities that could spread or be seriously impacted by the disease.

We are still learning about VHS. While we do have a long history of dealing with European and marine strains of the VHS virus dating back to the 1930s, we first observed the VHS virus strain that is currently affecting Great Lakes and Wisconsin fishes in 2003. While we believe many of its effects will be similar, we have already observed that this new strain is different in that it affects many more species and may operate at warmer water temperatures. It will likely be a decade before we have a more definitive understanding of the long term effects of VHS on Wisconsin's fisheries, and surveillance programs will always represent only a sample of Wisconsin's many lakes and streams at any given time. A major challenge has been to balance the known short term social and economic consequences of potential VHS control measures with the less certain long term consequences of its spread into other Wisconsin waters.

We have concluded that effectively controlling the spread of VHS will require an *integrated* program that ultimately requires that all affected citizens understand and take personal responsibility for making sure

their activities are not spreading diseases and invasive species. *Regulations* are an important component but must be complemented by *surveillance and monitoring* programs to track VHS in Wisconsin, implementing fish disease *biosecurity best management practices* in Wisconsin's fish farms and fisheries operations, improving *quality control in Wisconsin's bait fish industry*, conducting needed *research* on the effects of the disease and ways to manage it in the wild and in fish farms, and perhaps most important, significant *public education and outreach* programs. All components of the integrated program are important if we hope to be successful in controlling the spread of VHS.

#### *Background on the VHS virus*

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is caused by a rhabdovirus previously unknown in the Great Lakes. The World Health Organization for Animal Health (OIE) lists VHS as a notifiable disease, meaning that outbreaks are to be reported immediately to that organization and others. The virus has killed large numbers of cultured rainbow trout and turbot in Europe and caused large-scale mortality in wild Pacific herring and pilchard populations along the Pacific coast. It has been confirmed in several species on the Atlantic coast and in Japan.

A form of the VHS virus was recently discovered in the Great Lakes for the first time. It was diagnosed as the cause of fish kills in Lake Huron, Lake St Clair, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence River in 2005 and 2006. Thousands of muskies, walleye, lake whitefish, freshwater drum, yellow perch, gizzard shad, redhorse, and round gobies died in 2005 and 2006 in the lower Great Lakes. Many chinook salmon, white bass, emerald and spottail shiners, smallmouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, burbot and northern pike were infected with VHS virus and showed clinical signs of disease but did not die in large numbers. This is the first time any virus has affected so many different fish species from so many fish families in the Great Lakes. Since the adoption of the first of our emergency orders, the VHS virus has been documented in the Lake Winnebago system and in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan.

We do not know how many species of Wisconsin fish are susceptible to the virus. The following Wisconsin species are listed as susceptible to VHS virus by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Merck Veterinary Manual, and/or the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS): black crappie, bluegill, bluntnose minnow, brook trout, brown bullhead, brown trout, burbot, channel catfish, chinook salmon, coho salmon, emerald shiner, freshwater drum, gizzard shad, largemouth bass, lake trout, muskellunge, northern pike, pumpkinseed, rainbow trout, redhorse, rock bass, round goby, smallmouth bass, walleye, white bass, white perch, lake whitefish, yellow perch. Because this list reaches across many distinct families of fish, we cannot assume that any fish species is not susceptible.

We do not know how it was transported to the Great Lakes or exactly how it has been spread. Possible vectors include migrating fish from the Atlantic Coast, ballast water from ships, and frozen Pacific herring imported for use as cut bait. Infected fish shed the virus in their urine and reproductive fluids. Because the virus has been detected in baitfish species such as emerald and spottail shiners in Lake Ontario and Lake St Clair, we believe that wild harvested baitfish may be one way that the virus is quickly spread across large geographic areas.

Virus particles in the water infect gill tissue first, and then move to the internal organs and the blood vessels. The blood vessels become weak, causing hemorrhages in the internal organs, muscle and skin. Fish can also be infected when they eat an infected fish. Fish that survive the infection will develop antibodies to the virus. Antibodies will protect the fish against new VHS virus infections for some time. However, the concentration of antibodies in the fish will decline over time and the fish may start shedding the virus again. This may create a cycle of fish kills that occurs on a regular basis. VHS virus can remain infective up to 14 days in water. The virus reproduces best in fish when water temperatures are

37-54°F. Most infected fish will die when water temperatures are 37- 41°F, and rarely die above 59 °F. Stress is an important factor in VHS outbreaks. Stress suppresses the immune system, causing infected fish to become diseased. Stressors include spawning hormones, poor water quality, lack of food, or excessive handling of fish.

### *DNR Regulations*

On January 25, 2007, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced the discovery of VHS in samples of chinook salmon, whitefish, and walleyes in northern Lake Huron including some samples that had originally been collected in 2005. Prior to that announcement, VHS had not been detected any further upstream in the Great Lakes than Lake St Clair. With that announcement, however, we concluded that there was a very strong probability that VHS was already in Lake Michigan and asked the Natural Resources Board to consider emergency rules to help control the spread of the disease.

On April 4, 2007 the Natural Resources Board (NRB) adopted Order FH-22-07(E) to control the spread of VHS virus in Wisconsin by limiting the movement of live fish, bait, and water among already-infected and uninfected waters of the state. Provisions of that rule were clarified and expanded in NRB Order FH-25-07(E), adopted on April 25, 2007. At the time those rules were adopted, VHS virus had caused fish kills in the lower Great Lakes, but had not been documented west of Lake Huron. Department biologists believed it was probably already in Lake Michigan, and possibly in Lake Superior and the Mississippi River which are directly connected to Lake Michigan.

On May 11, the University of Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab informed the department that samples of freshwater drum taken from Little Lake Butte des Morts had tested positive for the VHS virus. For purposes of controlling the spread of the disease, it was then reasonable to regard Lake Winnebago and the majority of the Fox/Wolf River system as infected, and prudent to assume that the virus might appear in any inland water. Accordingly, Order FH-28-07(E) was adopted on May 17, 2007, expanding the geographic applicability of the emergency rules to include the Lake Winnebago and the Fox/Wolf River system. Subsequently, VHS was confirmed in freshwater drum in Lake Winnebago itself, and in brown trout, smallmouth bass and whitefish in Lake Michigan.

On June 27, 2007 the NRB authorized public hearings on a proposed permanent rule, Order FH-30-07 which was largely identical to the cumulative emergency rules.

To date, the Department of Natural Resources held 11 formal public hearings on its emergency and permanent rule making:

Emergency rules:	May 3, 2007 – La Crosse
	May 10, 2007 – Ashland
	May 17, 2007 – Milwaukee
	June 11, 2007 – La Crosse
	July 11, 2007 – Madison
Permanent rules:	August 14, 2007 – Fitchburg
	August 15, 2007 – La Crosse
	August 16, 2007 – Milwaukee
	August 20, 2007 – Green Bay
	August 23, 2007 – Wausau
	August 23, 2007 – Superior

And the Natural Resources Board has publicly met on these rules 5 times:

- April 4, 2007 – initial emergency rules
- April 25, 2007 – “housekeeping” changes to emergency rules
- May 17, 2007 – revised emergency rules after VHS found in Lake Winnebago
- June 27, 2007 – authorized public hearings on permanent rules
- October 24, 2007 – considered final permanent rules

At the last meeting on October 24, 2007, the NRB approved new emergency rules FH-40-07(E) which were similar cumulative emergency rules except that all provisions of the rule would apply statewide rather than some provisions just applying to known affected waters. Those rules were published and went into effect on November 3, 2007. The NRB will consider final permanent rules at its December 5, 2007 meeting.

The following is a summary of the current emergency rules:

- ✓ No person may leave any inland or outlying water with ANY live fish (including left over minnows) – with certain exceptions: exports in compliance with USDA rules; fish that have tested negative for VHS under DATCP standards; with written DNR approval, or bait dealers with a valid wild bait harvest permit.
- ✓ Anglers and boaters must drain ALL water from bilges, ballast, live wells, bait buckets and other containers when they leave the water or when entering the state – except with written DNR approval (does not include any potable water or beverages).
- ✓ Licensed bait dealers may harvest and transport wild bait after receiving a water and time specific permit from the DNR. No permits may be issued on waters where VHS is suspected to be present, all gear must be disinfected when moving between waters, and DATCP fish health testing requirements must be followed before distributing fish.
- ✓ No person may use or possess as bait any live fish obtained outside of Wisconsin unless the fish have been imported in compliance with DATCP regulations.
- ✓ No dead fish or fish parts can be used as bait with certain exceptions: on Lake Michigan or Green Bay, on the same water from which they are collected, or if they are preserved by a method that does not require freezing or refrigeration.
- ✓ Crayfish and turtle trappers may not use live fish or fish parts for bait unless purchased from a licensed WI bait dealer, fish are from the same water, or with written DNR approval.
- ✓ DNR may deny non-standard gear permit requests if use will spread VHS or other diseases.

The emergency regulations are consistent with what we know about the current behavior and distribution of the disease. The rules target only the highest risk activities - movement and use of potentially infected fish and contaminated water. They allow for continued wild bait harvesting under a new permit system with additional biosecurity conditions. DNR rules are complemented by DATCP regulations that significantly improve fish health surveillance in the aquaculture and wild bait industry. Both regulatory efforts have been and will be supported by extensive public education and outreach efforts and increased surveillance of wild fish populations, farm raised fish and bait fish being imported or sold in Wisconsin.

#### *Surveillance and Monitoring*

The Department has established an active program of monitoring and surveillance for the virus.

- Since the fall of 2006, with assistance from the USFWS La Crosse Fish Health Center and the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, DNR has tested 107 groups of wild fish as part of our VHS

surveillance program, investigated 18 fish kills, and examined over 40 diagnostic cases of fish with lesions that were caught by anglers.

- All wild broodstocks used by DNR as a source of eggs for state hatcheries and coop ponds are tested for viruses during the spawning period. Testing of trout and salmon dates back to the 1980s, testing of other species began on a limited basis in 2006 and was greatly expanded in 2007 (most samples taken before the discovery of VHS in Wisconsin waters).
- Fish reared at DNR hatcheries are tested for VHS virus and would not be stocked if VHS were to be detected (so far it has not been detected in any DNR hatchery).
- With the assistance of a \$30,000 grant from the US Department of Agriculture, the Department will expand monitoring in the spring of 2008 to include 30 additional sites from the Wisconsin River basin and 15 additional high risk sites from around the state.
- In cooperation with our Bureau of Law Enforcement we have used the existing WDNR hotline (800-TIP-WDNR) to collect fish kill reports from the public. We will continue to do so in 2008 and follow through with investigations and testing if necessary.

Based on this sampling, we do not believe that VHS is widespread in Wisconsin at this time and was not present prior to 2007. The only confirmed cases are from 2007 in the Lake Winnebago system and northern Lake Michigan. Extensive sampling of hatchery broodstocks and hatchery production fish has found no evidence of VHS in the DNR hatchery system in 2007 or earlier years. There have been no suspicious, unexplained fish kills in earlier years that could have been attributed to VHS. Even in Lake Winnebago and Lake Michigan, the disease was found only in a few species suggesting the disease has not had time to spread widely. While we cannot guarantee that VHS is not present in some other waterbodies in Wisconsin, there is no evidence that it is common at this time.

### *Biosecurity*

DNR has a long and successful history of regulating and managing fish health in Wisconsin. The Department employs fish health inspectors and pathologists that meet national and state certification standards to manage the fish health programs under its jurisdiction. Prior to 1998, Wisconsin DNR had primary regulatory authority over all fish health issues, and since 1998 has continued to meet or exceed all applicable fish health standards in all of its hatchery and field operations.

Even before the discovery of VHS in Wisconsin, DNR had increased biosecurity in its hatchery and field operations to cover the contingency that VHS was in the Great Lakes. Trout and salmon eggs have been routinely disinfected, and brood and production fish routinely tested for viruses since the 1980s. With the obvious advance of VHS, disinfection and testing was expanded to other species for the 2007 season. The DNR also cancelled all spawn collections for coolwater species from the Great Lakes since there is not a generally acceptable egg disinfection protocol for these species. The latter action included both DNR hatchery operations and private interests collecting sucker spawn under cooperative agreements.

After the discovery of VHS in Lake Winnebago waters, the DNR completed a comprehensive review of hatchery and field operations to make sure fish disease biosecurity procedures and best management practices still minimized the risk of spreading VHS. That review was conducted following a complete moratorium on the movement of live fish enacted on or before May 16, 2007. The completed plan was reviewed by DATCP and approved by the Secretary on June 25, 2007 before resumption of field operations. Improved hatchery biosecurity measures included quarantines of hatcheries which received spawn from potentially infected sources and disease testing of all hatchery broodstock, large fingerlings, forage minnows purchased from outside vendors, and open hatchery water supplies. To date there have been no positive VHS tests of any fish associated with the DNR hatchery system. The complete 2007 plan can be found on the DNR 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)

For 2008, we are developing an operations plan which will contain a similar high level of disease testing, and additional long term measures to deal with the permanent presence of VHS in Lake Michigan such as universal egg disinfection during all spawning operations, raising fish from Lake Michigan sources only in the Lake Michigan watershed and stocking fish from Lake Michigan sources only into Lake Michigan or other known VHS positive waters. Also, we have in place internal policies requiring proper disinfection of all boats and sampling gear used by Wisconsin DNR personnel after use on all Wisconsin waters.

The Department of Natural Resources also participated in 6 meetings and conference calls with representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, University of Wisconsin – Extension aquaculture outreach program, Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, and the Wisconsin Fish and Bait Dealers Association during the summer of 2007 to review and develop appropriate fish health rules that were later implemented by DATCP.

### *Bait Fish*

We recognize that bait minnows are a popular and economically important part of Wisconsin's \$3 billion sport fish industry as well as a critical potential vector for the spread of VHS. The virus has been found in popular bait species such as emerald shiners, spottail shiners and bluntnose minnows, though to date has not been found in the wild in the most popular Wisconsin bait species which are fathead minnows, white suckers, and golden shiners. Wild bait harvest has been prohibited in the Great Lakes and tributaries for a number of years in a proactive attempt to stop the spread of invasive species, and this prohibition was expanded to all affected waters by emergency rules in April 2007.

Because the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has substantial statutory authority in the area of fish health, we are working closely with that agency to improve the fish disease quality control in the bait minnow supply in Wisconsin. DATCP establishes fish health standards for all imported fish, all stocked fish (including those stocked by the Department), and all fish farms. Recently they have developed standards for fish harvested from wild sources and distributed for use as bait. Currently DATCP is developing emergency rules modifying those standards to address VHS. The emergency rules were scheduled to go into effect on November 1, 2007.

The two sets of regulations will be complementary in two important ways. First, there are both practical and economic limitations to any wild bait-fish disease testing program. Since current rules do not permit the harvest and transport of wild bait away from waters known to be infected with VHS or connecting waters up to the first barrier impassible to fish, that removes a critical source of potentially infected fish and allows the DATCP rules to require a more reasonable testing protocol of other sources of bait minnows. Second, current rules also require that wild bait cannot be sold, bartered or given away unless it meets DATCP standards. This not only provides seamless authority, but allows for coordinated enforcement of the rules.

However, recognizing the importance of the wild bait fish industry, DNR and DATCP have worked closely with industry representatives to streamline the permit process. Current rules for example expanded the duration of the normal bait harvest permit from 14 to 30 days, and allowed for longer durations for special combined stocking and harvest permits in controlled access situations.

### *Research*

Wisconsin DNR is cooperating with other agencies and the public to identify, conduct or support necessary research to help better understand VHS and how it affects fish and fish operations in the wild

and aquaculture operations. During 2007, for example, the DNR Bureau of Integrated Science Services worked with DNR Fisheries Management staff to study the effects of common virus disinfection practices on coolwater species fish eggs. Although a common practice for coldwater trout and salmon species, much less was known about the effects of disinfection on walleye, pike, musky or sucker eggs. We continue to actively participate in the interjurisdictional Great Lakes Fish Health Committee which has been developing research and disease management recommendations. Wisconsin DNR will also be hosting a workshop on VHS for affected state and federal agencies at the December, 2007 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference being held in Madison, Wisconsin.

A critically important question concerns the long term impact of VHS on Wisconsin fish populations. VHS has caused some large die offs in adult fishes – most notably a large die off of freshwater drum, yellow perch, walleyes and other species in Lake Erie in 2006. It has also caused smaller fish kills involving muskellunge, gizzard shad, emerald shiners, and gobies, and has been found in many other species. The long term impacts of VHS on fish populations in Wisconsin may not be known for 5-10 years. While VHS does kill adult fish, it is the smaller fish that are likely most vulnerable. If VHS disrupts the hatches of popular game fishes in Wisconsin, we could see long term population declines such as has been seen for Pacific Herring – an important commercial species in Prince William Sound. There is some very preliminary evidence that VHS may have noticeably affected 2005 and 2006 recruitment of walleye and yellow perch in Lake Erie, and adult muskellunge populations in the St. Lawrence River. The DNR has a good long-term sampling program for adult and young fishes on Lake Winnebago, so we will be able to monitor any impacts on that system.

#### *Public Outreach*

The lives of millions of people would be affected by the uncontrolled spread of VHS, but our efforts to control the disease will not be successful unless the public understands the significance of the disease and supports those efforts. Wisconsin has approximately 1.4 million licensed anglers, 625,000 registered boats, 2,200 registered fish farms, 800 licensed bait dealers, and 88 permitted wild bait harvesters participating in activities that could spread or be seriously affected by the disease, so the importance of a public education and outreach component to this effort cannot be overemphasized.

During 2007, the Department took unprecedented steps to alert the public to the threat of VHS and deliver a short but consistent message on steps that they could take to control its spread.

- Posted information signs at all major boat and fishing access points on affected waters in Great Lakes, Mississippi River and Lake Winnebago system. These have been translated into Spanish and Hmong.
- Developed a comprehensive information web page (<http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/pages/vhs.html>)
- Produced radio and TV public service announcements and distributed to stations across Wisconsin.
- Purchased approximately \$70,000 worth of radio and TV airtime for PSA announcements
- Developed informational posters and distributed to all bait dealers for posting.
- Developed other brochures, posters, FAQ sheets, kids cards and other information for distribution and posting on the website.
- Coordinated with other Department aquatic invasive species outreach programs including the growing DNR and volunteer boat inspection program.
- Made countless informational presentations to media, angling and conservation groups, and anglers across the state
- Encouraged anglers to retain fish that show possible signs of VHS and contact their local fisheries biologist. The DNR TIP line protocol has been modified to accept reports of fish kills and angler caught fish that may display signs of VHS. Contact information will be routed to the appropriate fisheries biologist.

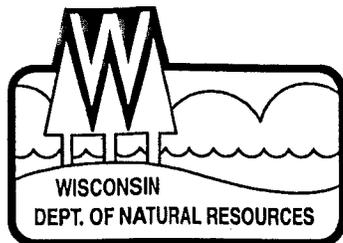
We plan to continue many of these activities into 2008 with the hope of continuing to raise public awareness of this issue and continue to deliver a consistent message on the personal actions that people can take to participate in this integrated attack on VHS.

*Summary*

VHS poses a difficult management challenge for Wisconsin. Its long term effect may not be known for many years, yet there are significant short term costs to the actions that must be taken to control its spread. Future generations will likely judge us poorly if we expend significant resources and the effects turn out to be minimal. Yet those same future generations will judge us more harshly if we allow it to spread and VHS turns out to have serious impacts on Wisconsin's fisheries. Given what's at stake – a \$3 billion dollar sport fishing industry – the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has committed to taking the necessary steps to minimize the spread of this potentially dangerous disease now.

Presented by:  
Michael Staggs  
Director, Bureau of Fisheries Management





## 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

### Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Hearing on Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Rules January 29, 2008 Testimony of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources is appearing in support of Clearinghouse Rule 07-074. These rules are a key component of an integrated program to keep a very serious fish disease called Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) from spreading and damaging Wisconsin's \$2.9 billion fishing industry.

This committee held an informational hearing on VHS on November 7, 2007 at which you received extensive background on VHS, its history and spread into Wisconsin, and our efforts to manage the disease. Please refer to our agency testimony from that hearing for more information on VHS, but a few key points should be reiterated:

1. VHS is NOT a human health threat in any way.
2. The strain of VHS in Wisconsin is new and affects a wide range of species including virtually all major Wisconsin sport species. It has caused major adult fish kills and long term population declines in some infected waters, but scientists expect the most serious impacts will be on newly hatched fish which means the long term impacts of VHS on Wisconsin's fisheries may not be known for 5-10 years.
3. There is a lot at stake. A 2006 US Fish and Wildlife Service survey showed that angling in Wisconsin generated \$2.75 billion in economic activity, supported 30,164 jobs and contributed \$196 million in state income and sales taxes. We rank #2 in the nation in non-resident fishing days (trailing only Florida). Even the perception that Wisconsin isn't doing everything it can to protect its fisheries might cause non-resident anglers to choose other places to fish.
4. VHS has the potential to affect a lot of people. We have 1.4 million anglers, 625,000 registered boats, 2,200 fish farms, 800 bait dealers, and 100 wild bait harvesters.
5. Despite reasonably widespread testing, VHS has so far only been found in the Lake Winnebago system, and in Door County waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay. That means there are thousands of inland lakes and miles of streams and rivers that can still be protected from VHS.
6. And most importantly, by far the most likely way in which VHS can spread is by the movement of *infected fish or large quantities of contaminated water.*

In response to this serious fish health threat, the DNR has worked with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and other agency and industry partners to develop a comprehensive and integrated control program. Collectively we have greatly increased fish health surveillance and monitoring, biosecurity procedures in live fish handling, quality control in the bait fish industry, research, and public education and outreach. Today, however, we are focusing on the administrative rules which are a critical element of effort to control the spread of VHS.

Clearinghouse rule 07-0074 contains permanent administrative rules passed by the Natural Resources Board (NRB) on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007. They target the most likely disease vectors – infected fish and large

quantities of contaminated water. They benefited from 11 formal public hearings, and public discussion at 6 different NRB meetings.

The rules do the following:

- ✓ No person may leave any inland or outlying water with ANY live fish (including left over minnows) – with certain exceptions: exports in compliance with USDA rules; fish that have tested negative for VHS under DATCP standards; with written DNR approval, or bait dealers with a valid wild bait harvest permit.
- ✓ Anglers and boaters must drain ALL water from bilges, ballast, live wells, bait buckets and other containers when they leave the water or when entering the state – except with written DNR approval (does not include any potable water or beverages).
- ✓ Licensed bait dealers may harvest and transport wild bait after receiving a water and time specific permit from the DNR. No permits may be issued on waters where VHS is suspected to be present, all gear must be disinfected when moving between waters, and DATCP fish health testing procedures must be followed before distributing fish.
- ✓ No person may use or possess as bait any live fish obtained outside of Wisconsin unless the fish have been imported in compliance with DATCP regulations.
- ✓ No dead fish or fish parts can be used as bait with certain exceptions: on Lake Michigan or Green Bay, on the same water from which they are collected, or if they are preserved by a method that does not require freezing or refrigeration.
- ✓ Crayfish and turtle trappers may not use live fish or fish parts for bait unless purchased from a licensed WI bait dealer, fish are from the same water, or with written DNR approval.
- ✓ DNR may deny non-standard gear permit requests if use will spread VHS or other diseases.

These regulations are consistent with what we know about the current behavior and distribution of the disease. The rules target only the highest risk activities - movement and use of potentially infected fish and contaminated water. They allow for continued wild bait harvesting under a new permit system with additional biosecurity conditions. DNR rules are complemented by DATCP regulations that significantly improve fish health surveillance in the aquaculture and wild bait industry. Both regulatory efforts have been and will be supported by extensive public education and outreach efforts and increased surveillance of wild fish populations, farm raised fish and bait fish being imported or sold in Wisconsin.

We have heard from some anglers who have questioned why leftover live minnows cannot be taken away and used again. Many have made very reasonable suggestions for ways in which unused minnows could be saved for use on another lake or another day without spreading VHS. During their deliberations on December 5, the NR Board did consider an amendment to the rules which would have allowed people to keep leftover minnows if they had not exchanged water in their minnow bucket and were only going to use them later on the same waterbody. The fundamental problem with this and similar exceptions is that it is impossible to tell if people are complying. There is simply no way to keep track of minnows once they leave the water, and there is no way to know where the minnows that are being taken off the water actually came from. They could have even been netted from the water itself, which would be very troubling if that water had VHS.

We know that the vast majority of anglers care about Wisconsin's fisheries resources and would certainly follow the rules to avoid spreading VHS. Experience, however, also shows there are always a few people who disregard the rules and wardens must have an enforceable way to deal with them. The NR Board fully understood that they were choosing between a set of rules that would be less popular but would be legally enforceable and a set of rules that - if everyone followed them - would prevent the spread of VHS but because they are legally unenforceable would essentially be voluntary.

In the end, there were some differences of opinions among NRB members, but they passed rules that would in fact be enforceable. Wisconsin has some of the nation's best fishing resources and most popular fishing, and NR Board members were unwilling to place these at the mercy of voluntary regulations.

We know that many anglers still have questions about minnow use under the new regulations so we have produced a detailed question-answer document on use of fish as bait which can be found at: [http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/documents/vhs\\_fishasbait.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/documents/vhs_fishasbait.pdf). It contains answers to many common questions about these situations and provides some suggestions for safe (and legal) ways to handle leftover minnows.

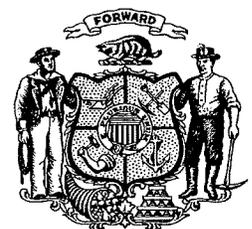
Also there have been alternate proposals to apply angler and boater restrictions only on known VHS infected waters. The NR Board also considered this issue and chose to apply them to all Wisconsin waters. The main concern is that we simply cannot know what waters are infected at any given time. There are too many waters to test and limitations of the testing process itself which can take up to 30 days and is likely effective only at certain times of the year could lead to considerable delays in identifying and including newly infected waters. NR Board members also wanted to avoid the confusion created by a periodically changing list of affected waters.

VHS poses a difficult management challenge for Wisconsin. Its long term effect may not be known for many years, yet there are significant short term costs to the actions that must be taken to control its spread. Future generations will likely judge us poorly if we expend significant resources and the effects turn out to be minimal. Yet those same future generations will judge us more harshly if we allow it to spread and VHS turns out to have serious impacts on Wisconsin's fisheries. Given what's at stake – a \$3 billion dollar sport fishing industry – the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has committed to taking the necessary steps to minimize the spread of this potentially dangerous disease now.

Presented by:  
Michael Staggs  
Director, Bureau of Fisheries Management



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



---

---

# ROGER BRESKE

---

---

STATE SENATOR

12th District

Capitol Address:  
State Capitol, South Wing  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
(608) 266-2509

Toll Free:  
1 (800) 334-8773



Home Address:  
8800 Hwy. 29  
Eland, WI 54427  
(715) 454-6575

E-Mail Address:  
Sen.Breske@legis.state.wi.us

January 29, 2008

To: Senator Mark Miller, Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources  
Members, Senate Environment and Natural Resources  
Fr: Senator Roger Breske  
Re: Comments on CR07-074

1.24.08 – Listening Session, Rhinelander City Hall  
Senator Roger Breske, Chair, Tourism Committee  
Senator Russ Decker, Senate Majority Leader  
Senator Jeff Plale, Vice-Chair, Tourism Committee

\* = information  
# = problem  
^ = suggestion

Steve Avellemant, DNR

- It's the fishing CWD.

## 1. Bob Berch, Bob's Manitowish Guide Service

- He has a separate cooler in the middle of his boat, it never mingles with the lake water.

# Minnows are kept in the truck and if they back the truck into the water they have to get rid of the minnow.

o DNR sort of concurred... said the rule says when it's ON the water.

- \$4-\$5/ sucker. Costly to throw away.

# Some people will ignore it, or will go up to MI instead.

## 2. James Tait, Boulder Junction Chamber of Commerce

# Catch and release fishing tournaments. If they bring the fish into the shore, you have to keep the fish... just not practical.

^ There can be standards for the holding tanks and live wells so that they don't discharge back into the lake.

^ If the bait is kept in the original, non-lake water, it shouldn't have to be discarded.

## 3. George Langley, Eagle River Guides Assn

- \* Feels the rules are adversarial.
- \* Also in the bait business.
- \* Doesn't mention jet skis or other watercraft in the water.

- \* Muskie fishers - \$6-\$7 per muskie sucker
- \* Have to take 120lb bucket with bait out of the back of the car while launching boat.
- ^ Rule needs to be easier to follow, needs to be less adversarial to fishers.
- ^ Wants to move bait around in the vehicle – shouldn't be dumped if it never gets in the boat.

\*\*\* The DNR is working to exempt tournaments, so that the tourney sponsors and the DNR biologist work together to make sure the tourneys can go on.

4. Paul Hansen, Eagle River, single guide

- \* The issue is not regulation, but rather education. It's UNENFORCEABLE.
- ^ Perhaps if there was a manual.
  - \*\*\* Steve: if you have a live well on your dock and it never gets in the boat, there isn't a problem.
  - \* the homework hasn't been done on this.
  - ^ There has to be something simpler.

5. Joanne Ruffie, Rhinelander, self

- \* It's unenforceable.
- \* She and her husband have volunteered for AIS watching... a lot of people are adversarial if asked to remove the weeds.
  - \* They've always brought another baggie to get rid of the minnows when ice fishing.
  - # Can't imagine what it's going to be like with all the dumping near the shore.
  - # Even when you're talking about \$6.25 a dozen shiners for ice fishing... the poorer families will be strapped.
  - # in the summers they use leaches and crawlers.
  - ^ want it done through education

\*\*\*\* From Decker: he has a camper and camps on Lake Nokomis. Can he take his bucket from the boat up to the camper, put it on an aerator and take it back the next day?

- # Steve: based on what he's hearing about enforcement, they're allowing riparian owners to take bait back to the house.

6. David Lang, Tommy's Fishing Adventure & Fish Minocqua.com

- # The only way he sees this as being enforceable is if a DNR warden is at the landings.
- # Doesn't want to see on the news that the WI DNR and residents are killing baby fish.

7. Brian Uttech, Eagle River Outfitters Guide Service

- # The regulations don't talk about the pleasure boaters or jet skis
- # Bunked trailers (carpeted) – the carpets hold the water for a long time.
- # WI laws for visitors are extremely confusing.
- # DNR doesn't have enough staff to enforce.
  - ^ Would like to see more on the prevention side from the DNR. DNR is unable to do anything effective. Pewaukee lake has had EWM since 1966 and 400 have it.
  - # focusing on the wrong thing – minnows.

8. Eric Holm, Coolidge Springs Trout Ranch, Fifield

- \* has always gotten his eggs from a certified supplier (frier).
- \* water is taken from his own property, so there's no transfer.

\* every year they get tested.

# To do a yearly test for VHS would be very costly.

^ If the minnows are coming from a certified supplier there shouldn't be a supplier... no one is going to sell a minnow they know has VHS.

9. Kurt Justice, Kurt's Island Sport Shop, Arbor Vitae

^ Would like to see an informal poll of the wardens to see their suggestions on how to enforce.

# the biggest issue is transport of water, the bait is not the issue.

\* he's seen a decrease in the bait he can get because it's wild caught

# fisherman feel they're being unjustly targeted in the rule. And there are other water users that don't care as much about the health of the lakes/water up here.

# so many of the lakes are interconnected up here

# he's heard from some people who are so mad they won't fish this winter.

10. Bob Theisen, fisherman, Woodruff

# he's amazed at how many people don't know about this – EDUCATION

# is the DNR going to stop stocking fish... because the lakes are all connected.

# he can see the birds flying with eggs on their feet.

# It's not the good fishers... not the casual.

# If you drive your truck out on the lake with the bucket in the back, what's the difference than just dragging the bucket out by foot?

# If you make exceptions for tourneys then there are going to be a lot of people mad at the DNR because of the exception.

# People can't afford gas in boat to be going back and forth across a chain just to get a couple of minnows.

# UNENFORCEABLE

Plale: The education campaign on EAB has been working – it's big in South Milwaukee.  
"Pack your marshmallows, but not your firewood" Comment: what's the best way to get to the majority? Education

11. Carol Ashley, Boulder Junction, bait shop owner

\* She's, and shop owners like her, are the DNR's PR person because she has to know all the rules and explain them to her customers.

\* She has large resort in the area that completely banned minnows.

# If it stands, she's just going to send the customers back to the DNR – ANOTHER OFFENDED GROUP.

\* The thing with keeping a bait bucket in a car – even if it's aerated, the bait is going to die after a couple of hours.

# It would be nice if the rules didn't change from year to year.

# Another, people are just going to go ahead anyway.

# They have lakes that are connected by a culvert but are not considered a chain, therefore they technically cannot go between the two lakes with a bait/live well.

# Also river to lake system.

\*\*\* Steve: Has been told "off the water"... so through a culvert, from river to lake will be fine. She was told from regulated body of water to regulated body of water.

# If the receptacles at the landings are not regularly dumped, the landings are going to reek.

# Making shop owners unsure of whether they're telling people the right thing or not.

# It's taking away the fun in fishing.

12. Rochelle Koester, First Weber Group, and family, Tomahawk

# Her husband fishes every nite after work and fishes in the same lake even though they don't live on it. It's expensive to have to go buy new bait every night... he's only fishing on one lake... why do they have to dump it?

13. Kari Zambon, family & Holiday Acres Resort, Rhinelander

# EDUCATION, publicity. In favor of what will keep this out of our lakes. Not sure exactly what the rule says.

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1-24-08  
BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

David C Lang  
(NAME)  
9660 Marilee Ct  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Monroe WI 54548  
(City and Zip Code)

Tommy's Fishing Adventure & FISH MESSAGING Co  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1/23/08  
BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT VHS

Seid Buelow  
(NAME)  
W8095 Cty Rd A  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Torchwick, WI 54487  
(City and Zip Code)

An Agler  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

**HAD TO LEAVE**  
Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1-24-2008  
BILL NO. Ruler VHS  
OR  
SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Kay Hoff  
(NAME)  
1593 McKinney Ln  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Minocqua WI 54548  
(City and Zip Code)

self  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

**HAD TO LEAVE**  
Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1-24-08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Bick White  
(NAME)

6281 Wendt Rd  
(Street Address or Route Number)

La Ke Tombank WI 54539  
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing) \_\_\_\_\_

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Kurt Justice  
(NAME)

1569 MASAA Ln  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Arbor Viste WI 54568  
(City and Zip Code)

Kurt's Island Sport Shop  
(Representing) ~~is~~

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1/24/08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT VHS

Eric Holm  
(NAME)

46981 Trout Pond Road  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Field, WI 54524  
(City and Zip Code)

Coolidge Springs Trout Ranch  
(Representing)

~~Speaking in Favor:~~

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1-27-08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OR

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Bob Theisen  
(NAME)

8814 Deris Dr.  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Woodruff, WI 54568  
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing) \_\_\_\_\_

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger **PROMPTLY**.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1-24-2008

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OR

SUBJECT Hearing on VHS

rule

Mel Hoff  
(NAME)

1593 McKinney Lane  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Minocqua WI 54548  
(City and Zip Code)

Self  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger **PROMPTLY**.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1-24-08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OR

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Tim LeBlanc  
(NAME)

340 W. Spruce  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Thierville  
(City and Zip Code)

(Representing) \_\_\_\_\_

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger **PROMPTLY**.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP  
(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1-24-08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT VHS

(KARL SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HER

KARY ZAMBON  
(NAME)  
4326 S. SHOLE POB 460  
(Street Address or Route Number)

RHINELANDER 54501  
(City and Zip Code) HOLIDAY ACRES  
ZAMBON FAMILY KIM, JAMES, KATE  
(Representing) PETER

Speaking in Favor:   
Speaking Against:   
Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:  
Registering Against:   
but not speaking:  
Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.  
Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP  
(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1-24-08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT VHS

Rochelle Koester  
(NAME)  
9135 Jenny Lake Rd.  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Tomahawk WI 54487  
(City and Zip Code)  
First Weber Group / Family  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:   
Speaking Against:   
Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:  
Registering Against:   
but not speaking:  
Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.  
Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP  
(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1/24/08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT VHS

Carol M. Ashley  
(NAME)  
P.O. Box 76  
(Street Address or Route Number)  
10369 Main St.  
Boulder CO  
(City and Zip Code)

Boulder CO, Wisconsin  
(Representing) 54512

Speaking in Favor:   
Speaking Against:   
Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:  
Registering Against:   
but not speaking:  
Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.  
Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1/24/08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT VHS

James Tait  
(NAME)  
Park Street  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Boulder FCT, WI 54512  
(City and Zip Code)

Boulder FCT Chamber of  
(Representing) Commerce

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1/24/08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT VHS Rules

George Langley  
(NAME)

805 Walnut St  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Essex River  
(City and Zip Code)

Essex River Guides Assn  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1-24-08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Joanne Ruffie  
(NAME)

6308 Hwy K  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Chilwell, WI  
(City and Zip Code)

54501  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP  
(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 01/24/08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT VHS - Current

DRAFT OF REGULATIONS

BRIAN UTTECH  
(NAME)  
5017 Sundstein Rd.  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Eagle River, WI 54521  
(City and Zip Code)  
EAGLE RIVER OUTFITTERS  
GUIDE SERVICE  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.  
Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP  
(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1/24/08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT VHS

Paul Hansen  
(NAME)  
8462 Hwy #  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Eagle River, WI 54521  
(City and Zip Code)  
Self  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.  
Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP  
(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1/24/07

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT VHS

Bob Bertsch  
(NAME)  
5625 St. Louis Lane  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Boscley Jet, WI 5452  
(City and Zip Code)  
Bob's Manitowish Guide Serv  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.  
Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1-2-08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

or

SUBJECT Bait Veg.

Roger LaReuter  
(NAME)

280's Lakeshore Dr E.  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Ashland, WI 54806  
(City and Zip Code)

AUGERS ALL  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1/24/08

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

or

SUBJECT UHS

SCOTT BREITING  
(NAME)

6675B BAYFRONT RD  
(Street Address or Route Number)

ASHLAND WI 54806  
(City and Zip Code)

RIVER ROCK INN & BATT 340P  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

or

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Chuck Weister  
(NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address or Route Number)

3953 Flanery L.Rd  
(City and Zip Code)

Rhineland  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

SENATE HEARING SLIP  
(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1-24-08  
BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT VHS

Tom Nampel  
(NAME)  
1615 Pine Tree Ln  
(Street Address or Route Number)  
ST GERMAIN, 54538  
(City and Zip Code)  
Eagle River Guides PSSH  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:   
Speaking Against:   
Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:  
Registering Against:   
but not speaking:  
Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.  
Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

*Summary*

VHS Listening Session  
Rhinelander  
January 24, 2008

STEVE AVELLEMAN  
NAME DNR

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Speaking   
Registering but NOT speaking

ANSWERING  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
QUESTIONS

SENATE HEARING SLIP  
(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 1-24-08  
BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT VHS Meeting

KEN BREEZER  
(NAME)  
(Street Address or Route Number)  
226 ELM  
(City and Zip Code)  
WISCONSIN  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:   
Speaking Against:   
Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:  
Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.  
Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O.Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

To: Governor Jim Doyle  
115 East State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702  
608-266-1212

Lt. Governor Lawton  
  
Fax: 608-267-8983

Senator: Rogee Breske (See Senate Map)

Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ (See Assembly Map)

**Re: DNR Emergency and Permanent Rules Concerning VHS**

Dear Sirs:

Please **do not** approve the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules (FH-30-70).

In October of 2007, DNR Bureau Director Mike Staggs proposed to the NRB (Natural Resources Board) emergency rules relating to VHS, FH-40-07 (E). In this proposal, DNR recommended these rules apply to only those water bodies currently infected with VHSv. **NRB amended this proposal to a state wide application of the emergency rule.** As a result, among other restrictions, anglers are required to dump their bait before leaving the water body they have been fishing, which includes all 15,000 lakes in Wisconsin, plus our rivers. This regulation is unenforceable, unnecessarily restrictive, and impractical.

We all want to protect our precious natural resources, anglers, live bait outlets, DNR personnel and politicians included. The DNR's original proposal to the NRB will accomplish this without creating confusing, complicated rules which will discourage the common angler and detrimentally impact the tourism industry in Wisconsin.

Therefore, we urge you to ask the NRB to amend the emergency rule relating to VHSv so the regulations are specific to VHS infected water bodies only, and are not applied state wide. We are confident the 1.4 million licensed anglers in this state will show appreciation through their votes, as well as the numerous impacted small business owners.

Thank you for taking action to represent your constituents.

Name: Kurt Justice Kurt Justice

Address: 1569 MARSHA Ln.

ARBON VITAE, WI,  
54568

To: Governor Jim Doyle                      Lt. Governor Lawton  
115 East State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702  
608-266-1212                                      608-267-8983 Fax  
Online [www.wisgov.state.wi.us/contact.asp?locid=19](http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/contact.asp?locid=19)

Senator \_\_\_\_\_ (See Senate Map)

Representative \_\_\_\_\_ (See Assembly Map)

**Re: DNR Emergency and Permanent Rules Concerning VHS**

Dear Sirs:

Please do not approve the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules (FH-30-70).

In October of 2007, DNR Bureau Director Mike Staggs proposed to the NRB (Natural Resources Board) emergency rules relating to VHS, FH-40-07 (E). In this proposal, DNR recommended these rules apply to only those water bodies currently infected with VHSv. **NRB amended this proposal to a state wide application of the emergency rule.** As a result, among other restrictions, anglers are required to dump their bait before leaving the water body they have been fishing, which includes all 15,000 lakes in Wisconsin, plus our rivers. This regulation is unenforceable, unnecessarily restrictive, and impractical.

° We all want to protect our precious natural resources, anglers, live bait outlets, DNR personnel, and politicians included. The DNR's original proposal to the NRB will accomplish this without creating confusing, complicated rules which will discourage the common angler and detrimentally impact the tourism industry in Wisconsin.

Therefore, we urge you to ask the NRB to amend the emergency rule relating to VHSv so the regulations are specific to VHS infected water bodies only, and not applied state wide. We are confident the 1.4 million licensed anglers in this state will show their appreciation through their votes, as well as the numerous impacted small business owners.

Thank you for taking action to represent your constituents.

Name:

Jeff Smith - J+J'S SPORTS - Lake Tomahawk

Address:

7197 Bradley St Lake Tomahawk, WI

NAME	Address
Bill Donner	6518 Cardinal Lane Lake TOMAHAWK, WI
CHARLES Taylor	403 Eau Claire DR Mosinee WI 54853
ROB MOYLE	W8094 PRAIRIE RD OAKFIELD 53065
DALE WALKER	369 S MAIN ST. MARKESAN WI 53946
JEFF SASS	1104 Rock Ave WAUPUN 53963
Todd Rieder	82 M. Berger Pkwy #1 Fond du Lac, WI 54935
M. Churches	7284 Rainbow Lake R 54539
J. Smith	P.O. BOX 373 Lake Tomahawk WI 54531
D. Ulmen	9021 Quail Per Lk. Tomahawk
H. Cybala	R15257 3rd AVE RINGLE 54471
D. Woscichowski	2504 GILBERT ST WAUSAU WI 54903
Jamie Smith	7197 HWY 47 LT., WI 54539
Alexis Belliveau	8972 Pleasant Dr.
Richard W. WICZARZAK	6525 ORIOLE RD LAKE TOMAHAWK, WI
Chris Romel	2741 Hwy 51 Apt 2 Woodruff WI 54568
Mike Panches	P.O. 7652 Woodruff WI 54568
Shirley VRS	69109 A Road B2 54539
Rick Wickhoff	7770 Bluegill Lake Rd 54539
Rick Verbin	3391 Faust Lake rd. 54501
JEFF DAILEY	3671 S Linsbun Post RD 54501
Ken Baltz	9069 Mid Lake Rd Woodruff 54568

Roy W. Bast  
Peter R. Sewer

8609 Bird Lake Rd, LK. Tomahawk, WI.  
139 Maple Street Rhinelander

Name

Address

Roy Bast / Roy W. Bast	8609 Bird Lake Rd. Lake Tomahawk, WI
Peter Lewis	139 Maple St Rhineland, WI
Ray Kulant	7233 Bradley St LAKE TOMAHAWK WI
Daddy Yermanski	8237 W. Belmont Rd. Lake Tomahawk
Robert Shoberg	7695 Jack Pine Forest Rd. Eagle River, WI
Mike Eckert	4029 Fox Farm Rd Rhineland
Kentwood Edert	4029 Fox Farm LN Rhineland WI
Davey Goodrich	6161 Black Lake Rd Rhineland WI
Joseph Vinci	5124 Evergreen Ct. Rhineland WI 54501
Jim Mantukas	4163 APPERSON DR RHINELAND, WI. 54501
Denise Forrest	7461 Lyannis Rd. Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539
Brinn or Forrest	" " " " " "
Cale Matz	7155 Fir Rd. Lake Tomahawk WI
James Jensen	6702 Hwy 47 Lake Tomahawk
Jim Setje	6998 W. Poplar Rd Lake Tomahawk
Doug Drued	4990 Hideout Ln LAKE TOMAHAWK WI
Lloyd Ives	6871 Barbara Pt. LK Tom
Ken Stolt	7106 Bass Lk Rd LK Tom
	5655 Knorr Rd Wis Rapids
Jerry Matz	7455 Lyannis Rd Lake Tomahawk
Jane Matz	7455 Lyannis Rd Lake Tomahawk WI
HAROLD WRIGHT	5461 MANOR RHINELAND WI

Name

Address

CARL KONYM

7890 RAINBOW RD LAKE TOMAHAWK

HOLLIS BEEDE

8970 FINCH RD LK TOMAHAWK

JOHN BERGEON

5478 RIVER RD MCNAUGHTON

CHUCK GROSS

1119 IVERSEN ST Rhinelander, WI

Petition against the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules.

Please **do not** approve the DNR's Permanent VHS rules.

Name: Take Wutschenreiter  
Address 9656 Brookside Trl  
Madison, WI 54548

Name: Christy Justice  
Address 1569 Marsha Lane  
Arbor Vitae, WI 54568

Name: Kurt Justice  
Address 1569 MARSHA LN  
Arbor Vitae, WI  
54568

Name: Duke Cook  
Address 6298 INTERLOCKEN RD  
HAZELHURST WI 54531

Name: TAMMY COOK  
Address 6298 INTERLOCKEN RD  
HAZELHURST WI 54531

Name: JOAN JUSTICE  
Address 9325 BERNICLAUD Dr  
HAZELHURST, WI 54531

Name: Doug Lantty  
Address P.O. BOX 544  
WOODRUFF WI  
54568

Name: Richard L Korinek  
Address W 1284 C's DR  
PARK FALLS, WI 54552

Name: Roy Redelt  
Address 15809 PINE PT LANE  
LDA, WI 54538

Name: Jan Meyer  
Address PO BOX 169  
WOODRUFF, WI 54568

Name: GRANT MEIER  
Address PO Box 169  
WOODRUFF WI 54568

Name: Beth O'Malley  
Address PO Box 355  
WOODRUFF, WI 54568

Petition against the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules.

Please **do not** approve the DNR's Permanent VHS rules.

Name: Scott Kleinschmidt  
Address 309 S. Eth. Ave  
Wausau, WI. 54401

Name: LARRY L BUDNIK  
Address 11435 AIRPORT RD  
ARBOR VITAE, WI. 54568

Name: Steve Kleinschmidt  
Address Merrill WI

Name: Jim SHEBELSKI  
Address MOSINEE, WI

Name: Ray JAREMA  
Address 12904 LYNNDALE  
PARSONS ILL

Name: Tom Mescher  
Address 300 W. Shales Dr  
Meyers WI 53092  
Chuck

Name: Cornelius Connor  
Address 6851 Windings Dr  
60452

Name: Bob  
Address 11636 Pinecrest  
Arbor Vitae WI 54568

Name: Ray Mikush  
Address 7045 Auburn Ave  
WAUKESHA 53213

Name: Tom J...  
Address 7260 BEAVER  
PRESQUE ISLE

Name: GORDON LAMR  
Address 1383 CAGLE RD  
WAUPRUE WI 54486

Name: Brian Seligman  
Address 14267 Lw. Sycamore St  
LDF WI 54538

Petition against the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules.

Please do not approve the DNR's Permanent VHS rules.

Name: Ronald Liebe  
Address 1300 7th Street  
Plover, WI 54467

Name: Jed Hoffman  
Address 25 N. 11th St.  
Dartmouth, WI 53010

Name: Jim Inman  
Address 3601 Page Dr #7  
Plover, WI 54467

Name: T. FLETCHER  
Address 2920 4th  
Two Rivers, WI 54241

Name: Craig Payson  
Address 631 AIRLINE Rd  
Plover WI 54467

Name: Zen Lipp  
Address 2017 Park Road L  
Tomahawk WI 54481

Name: [Signature]  
Address 1109 KENNEDY AVE  
STEVENS POINT, WI

Name: Wayne Kananan  
Address 517 N. 41st AVE  
Wausau, WI 54401

Name: Clint Wendt  
Address N2570 Millip Rd  
Markesan WI 53946

Name: Donald Kahn  
Address 1114 CEDAR ST.  
WAUSAU, WI 54401

Name: Tom Gladowski  
Address 7586 FOREST TR.  
Lake Tomahawk WI 54476

Name: Jay Ammer  
Address 907 PERRY DR  
Schofield, WI 54476

Petition against the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules.

Please do not approve the DNR's Permanent VHS rules.

Name: Mike Wenman  
Address 9009 Quail Rd  
Lake Tomahawk WI

Name: Mark A Benson  
Address 9136 Davies Rd  
Minocqua, WI 54548

Name: Steve Zajicek  
Address 9866 Blue Lake Rd  
Minocqua WI 54548

Name: John Sully  
Address 91728 stard  
Harshorn

Name: Karen Zajicek  
Address 9866 Blue Lake Rd  
Minocqua WI 54548

Name: Jim Harman  
Address 3772 Woodridge Tr.  
Wis Rapids WI  
54495

Name: Dan Taylor  
Address W6271 Puckaway Rd  
Markesan, WI 52946

Name: Larry Kutenkewenta  
Address 8656 Buckskin Trail  
Minocqua, WI 54548

Name: Bill Kuchler  
Address 10636 Hwy. 70 W.  
Minocqua WI 54548

Name: Dave Berg  
Address P.O. Box 309  
Edgar, WI 54426

Name: Jeff Erdman  
Address 9090 Thoroughfare Rd.  
Minocqua, WI 54548

Name: Edgar  
Address S.7E W20454 Hillendale  
Muskego, WI 53150

Petition against the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules.

Please **do not** approve the DNR's Permanent VHS rules.

Name: Todd A. Kurth  
Address 10825 Hwy 70W  
MINOCQUA WI 54548

Name: Victoria Glodowski  
Address 7586 Forest Trail  
Lake Tomahawk WI 54539

Name: WARREN DeMEHEE  
Address W11884 CAESAR ROAD  
CRIVITZ WI 5444

Name: JIM SHAFIEN  
Address 8530 SUTTON RD  
MINOCQUA WI 54548

Name: STEVE HINTZE  
Address 801 Edgewater DR  
Merrill, WI 54452

Name: Kirk Miller  
Address 9493 COUNTRY CLUB RD  
MINOCQUA, WI 54548

Name: Joshua Klug  
Address 1401 E. 9th St.  
Merrill, WI 54452

Name: Ryan Cliver  
Address 8878 Mayflower Ct  
Woodruff WI 54568

Name: Doug Kostrova  
Address 9602 Kostrova Ln  
Powder, WI  
54461

Name: Bobby Olson  
Address P.O. Box 1204  
Minocqua WI 54548

Name: Ed Szymanski  
Address 3338 MEADOW LANE  
RHINELANDER WI 54501

Name: Steve Corbell  
Address R11581 Spentman rd  
Sheffield WI 54170

Petition against the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules.

Please **do not** approve the DNR's Permanent VHS rules.

Name: Thomas A. Coud  
Address: 119868 Anglers Ave  
TOMAHAWK, WI 54487

Name: DANNY AENS  
Address: 14848 S. KELPATRICK AVE  
MIDLOTHIAN, IL 60445

Name: KEVIN ENGH  
Address: 503 N. WABLER  
WISCONSIN, WI 54410

Name: Joel Groll  
Address: 3502 Ike Walton  
Trail Road du Flambeau WI  
54538

Name: Joe Wallace  
Address: 2314 W. 6th St  
Wausau, WI 54483

Name: Allen Blum  
Address: PO Box 1341  
Minocqua WI 54548

Name: KRES CONRAD  
Address: 3187 LAKEWOOD DR  
SAYNER, WI 54560

Name: Katie Jacoby  
Address: 11699 Sherwood Lane  
Woodville, WI 54568

Name: Thomas Meyer  
Address: W7146 13 Village Rd  
Merrill, WI 54452

Name: Kyle Mertz  
Address: 11547 Harmony Ln  
Woodville WI 54568

Name: DZ MOOS  
Address: 2924 CRYN BE.  
SAYNER, WI

Name: Tom Wilk  
Address: 5571 S. LEISURE DR  
Hazelhurst, WI, 54531

Petition against the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules.

Please **do not** approve the DNR's Permanent VHS rules.

Name: David West  
Address: 519 Grace St.  
Schofield, WI 54476

Name: Jim Kieffe  
Address: 5705 Cedar Falls Rd.  
Hazelhurst WI

Name: Joseph J. Owsinski  
Address: 2420 Eastland  
Plouer WI

Name: Michael Ewart  
Address: P.O. Box 1303  
Minocqua WI 54548

Name: John Campbell  
Address: 4827 GRANT LANE  
Boulder Junction 54512

Name: Tim Huntz  
Address: 1325 Red Pine  
Arbor Vitae

Name: Marty G. Pezerson  
Address: 912 Griffin Rd  
Deerfield WI 53531

Name: Joe Solberg  
Address: P.O. BOX 1090  
Minocqua, WI

Name: AL LA PORTE  
Address: 5809 Deep Woods Lodge Rd  
HAZELHURST WI 54531

Name: Andy Grimm  
Address: 1216 Highland Park Blvd  
Wausau, WI 54403

Name: Alan Gumbawli  
Address: 1117 Mosinee Ave  
Mosinee, WI 54455

Name: Dave Miller  
Address: 9021 Quail Rd  
Lk. Tomahawk

Petition against the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules.

Please **do not** approve the DNR's Permanent VHS rules.

Name: Brett Weldon  
Address 9260 Golf View Dr  
Minocqua, WI

Name: Charles Winkler  
Address 7653 Agawak Road  
Minocqua, WI 54548

Name: Mike Hartzheim  
Address P.O. Box 1405  
Minocqua, WI 54548

Name: Gary Trexler  
Address 11000 Snyder Rd  
Arbor Vitae 54568

Name: Don Buss  
Address 10750 Minocqua Rd  
Arbor Vitae, WI 54568

Name: MIKE BOWEN  
Address 7532 Pine Lake Rd.  
Minocqua, WI 54548

Name: Tony Rodfeld  
Address 3720 U.G.S Rd  
Cottage Grove WI 54527

Name: Gary Waldburger  
Address 505 E 2nd St  
Menomonie, WI  
54452

Name: Lee Zorn  
Address 4120 W. Maplecrest Dr  
Franklin WI

Name: Luke Dink  
Address 9071 N. BO-DI-LAC DR  
Minocqua, WI 54548

Name: Richard & Pam Anderson  
Address 12252 Waupath Ln  
Manawa, WI 54548

Name: Holly Hanson  
Address 5903 Cedar Falls Rd  
Hazellhurst, WI 54548  
54531

Petition against the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules.

Please do not approve the DNR's Permanent VHS rules.

Name: Richard Helle  
Address: 8774 Badi Lac  
MINOCQUA, WI 54548

Name: SUSAN HILL  
Address: 8774 BADI LAC  
MINOCQUA, WI 54548

Name: Nick Dorsey  
Address: 3176 Hawk Ridge Tr  
Greca Bay WI 54313

Name: DUSTAN MAES  
Address: 2788 SUMMERSET CIR  
SUNNYSIDE, WI 54173

Name: JIM MARGITAN  
Address: 4405 GLENDOLE AV  
GREEN BAY WI 54303

Name: MICHAEL A. FUEE  
Address: 1665 S. PONDEROSA DR,  
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

Name: Chris Fuge  
Address: Rosholt WI 54473

Name: Stan Soblesczyk  
Address: 15810 River Hills RD  
WAUSAU WI 54403

Name: RC Wickisdal  
Address: 15810 River Hills Rd  
Wausau WI 54403

Name: Tom Milowski  
Address: 10377 VERONA AVE  
Ramsay WI

Name: DAVID RHYAN  
Address: 1211 E PRATT  
PALATINE IL 60074

Name: LARRY MILAWSKI  
Address: 10377 VERONA AVE  
RAMSAY WI

Petition against the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules.

Please do not approve the DNR's Permanent VHS rules.

Name: Ron Rutta  
Address 8703 Margaret St  
Rothschild, WI 53077

Name: Ko,ttE Justice  
Address 9325 Bernice Ln, DR  
Hazelhurst, WI 54531

Name: BOB DOLAR  
Address HC07 2246  
CLIFTON ALASKA

Name: JESSIE HARTUP  
Address 8980 LK Shore DR  
Woodcut, WI 54568

Name: RYAN SHEBELSKI  
Address 7883 SUNNY CT  
MOSINEE, WI

Name: Russ Henry  
Address 923 Cedar St.  
Minocqua 54548

Name: Mary Henry  
Address 10022 Little Arden Dr  
Arthur Vitae, WI 54568

Name: William Shipley  
Address 535 Arden Ave.  
Park Falls Wis.

Name: JOHN THARMAN  
Address P.O. Box 822  
WOODRUFF, WI 54308

Name: DAVE HARMON  
Address 7445 TRAILWOOD Dr.  
MINOCQUA WI  
54548

Name: SCOTT NEDDO  
Address PO Box 1544  
EAGLE RIVER WI  
54521

Name: Marlene Harmon  
Address 9330 Baker Ln DR  
Minocqua WI 54548

Petition against the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules.

Please do not approve the DNR's Permanent VHS rules.

Name: BERNARD WILGONS  
Address 11434 SPRUCE  
ARBORVILLE WI 54568

Name: JIM PRICHARD  
Address 9708 ALDERSON  
SCHAFFIELD, WI  
54476

Name: Sam Bellong  
Address 6810 WREN RD  
LAKE TONAWHAWK WI  
54531

Name: Bob Theisen  
Address 8814 Davis Dr.  
Woodruff WI 54568

Name: Judy Walker  
Address 9194 Stonegate Pl  
MINOCQUA, WI 54548

Name: Robert Hoffman  
Address R1 5894  
Robin Ln Ringbe

Name: Chris Thielman  
Address P.O. Box 1821  
Woodruff WI 54568

Name: TEO SOMMER  
Address MISSILE EAST RD  
PARK FALLS, WI 54552

Name: Adam Hagen  
Address 11377 Wilhaga Rd  
Arboretum, WI 54508

Name: Jeff Joemel  
Address 22600 W. Goodwin Rd  
Reedsville, WI 54230

Name: Josh Croppen  
Address 220 Lucille St.  
Wausau WI 54401

Name: Tess Lisner  
Address 9146 DAVIES RD  
MINOCQUA, WI 54548

Petition against the DNR's Permanent VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) rules.

Please **do not** approve the DNR's Permanent VHS rules.

Name: CHARLES G. THEOBALD  
Address P.O. Box 254  
LAC DU LAMBEAU WI  
54538

Name: DENNIS HOLMES  
Address 1508 WENDY DR.  
ARBOR VITAE WI 54568

Name: Jenny Bond  
Address 10081 Hwy 70 W  
Minocqua WI

Name: Kevin Thompson  
Address 10081 Hwy 70 West  
Minocqua WI  
54548

Name: Scott Cismy  
Address 4221 Paper Rd  
Arbor Vitae WI 54558

Name: Justin Bond  
Address 10081 Hwy 70 W  
Minocqua WI  
54548

Name: Steve White  
Address P.O. Box 707  
Woodruff, WI 54568

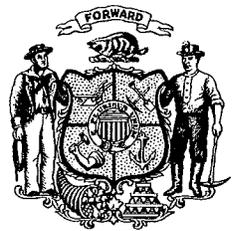
Name: Robert C. Blouin  
Address 1015 Johnson Creek  
Arbor Vitae WI, 54568

Name: Rick Writz  
Address 6281 Wendt Rd.  
Lake Tomahawk, WI. 54539

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



BB

## VHS REGULATIONS –

**Our fundamental problem with this regulation is that it is very poorly thought out, punitive, assumes fishermen won't cooperate, and unreasonable impractical. This seems to us to be what happens when anti-fishermen make the regulations. We want to cooperate, and have as anglers a bigger stake in the VHS fight than most other people, yet the decision makers seem to regard us as the enemy in this.**

- 1. Can't keep minnows in car and load boats – just a preposterous regulation. How stupid can they be? If an angler want to keep a cooler full of an aerator and minnows in the car, he is going out of his way to comply with the regulation – yet we have to take these coolers OUT of the car before we unload and load boats. They will weigh 75 – 100 pounds. How about trusting us to leave them in the car???**
- 2. How about requiring colored water in buckets? If an angler bought bait from a dealer, didn't put any water from the lake into the buckets, and left the original colored water in the bucket he should be allowed to transports the minnows.**
- 3. Killing bait and being required to take it – I'd sure hate to live near a boat landing. If anglers are required to kill all bait, these landings are going to be stinky as hell next summer. If you have 50 minnows left, how do you kill each one?**
- 4. How about something sensible, like dealing with the infected water only with these regulations? It's a lot easier to list the specific bodies of water that have the infection such as Lake Michigan and Lake Winnebago and have these draconian regulations to keep the infection from spreading than punitively imposing these regulations on every pond in the state.**
- 5. Draining water – not a word about jet skis or water ski boats in the regulation. This is where we feel the DNR considers us an adversary rather than a cooperator in this issue. Let's be frank – it is just NOT POSSIBLE to drain all water – they can require boats to do this until hell freezes over and it can't be done. There is water in the trailer tubes, there is water in the drain hoses for**

**live wells and sumps. Ski boats have 3 or 4 compartments that need draining.**

**All this leads us to the feeling that the DNR is not really interested in combating this – just appearing to be doing something. These regulations as imposed are as effective as the DNR battle against Chronic Wasting Disease. All show and no effectiveness.**

- Lots of priorities
  - Great Lakes
  - E-Waste
  - Green Tier

· take a full day to go to Eagle River?

- Mark could go to listen
- What specific changes - are they things Mark would support or not?
  - If no, why go through hearing

~~They~~