

VHS Virus

On April 4, 2007, the State of Wisconsin passed emergency rules to control the spread of the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) virus. The rules affect the possession of live (and dead) bait obtained from outside of Wisconsin or Lake Michigan or the Mississippi River, or water in bilges, ballast, or buckets from the same. This VHS virus is highly contagious and deadly to virtually all fish, and has the potential to wipe out fish populations in entire lakes.

In addition to the bait and water rules, fishermen and boaters are strongly encouraged to use extreme care with bait (using only what you know is from safe, inland sources), drain your boat and livewell and thoroughly clean your trailer before using it from one body of water to the next, and don't transfer water in a bait bucket from one body of water to another (you should be doing these things anyway to prevent the other two threats to our lake; zebra mussels and milfoil weed).

The VHS virus infects cells lining blood vessels, causing severe hemorrhaging and death. The virus does not affect humans. Like a lot of lake problems, the virus came to the US from Europe.

Please be careful. One mistake could devastate Morgan Lake.