

Anyone who raises, transports, and/or fishes in Wisconsin needs to be aware of the following information provided by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) Division of Animal Health.

Recommendations to fish farmers concerning Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus

The Division of Animal Health recommends that you do not stock fish farms or lakes with fish from the Great Lakes Waters where Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus has been found in fish, or that may have come in contact with fish from these lakes. The waters include:

- **Lake Huron**
- **Lake St. Clair**
- **Lake Erie**
- **Lake Ontario**
- **St. Lawrence River**

What is Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus ?

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus is a virus that infects fish and in many cases kill the majority of them. The lesions, or affected areas of raw fillets, look as if they have been cooked. So far there is no evidence of human health risk from eating infected fillets. However, as a general precaution, you should always cook fish thoroughly before eating it.

What do we know about Heterosporis?

The aquaculture veterinary and fish health community has limited information on this disease. These are the facts so far:

- Affected fish can have white, opaque lesions in the fillets.
- The parasite is visible in fish muscle under a microscope.
- In Wisconsin, 10 percent of yellow perch from the Eagle River Chain of Lakes show signs of the disease, as reported by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- In Minnesota, yellow perch from Leech Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish show signs of the disease, as reported by the Minnesota DNR.
- We have not seen any fish that have died as a result of Heterosporis infection.
- **Wisconsin aquaculture veterinarians and fish farmers have not reported Heterosporis on any fish farm in Wisconsin.**
- Veterinarians conducting fish health assessments on Wisconsin fish farms will continue to be instructed by the Division of Animal Health on proper procedures to detect Heterosporis in fish.

What don't we know about Heterosporis?

We don't know:

- How Heterosporis is transmitted to fish.
- Whether it is present in other lakes or other states.
- How long it has been in the lakes in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

What should I do if I suspect Heterosporis?

Freeze the affected fillets and immediately report all findings of this condition in any Wisconsin fish to:

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