



## There's Nothing Fishy About Healthy Fish.

**T**here's danger in the waters. Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) is a serious disease of fresh and saltwater fish that has recently been found widely throughout the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada. VHS is not a threat to human health.

VHS spreads among fish through urine and reproductive fluids released into the water, and also through the eating of other infected fish. Infected fish and water can easily spread the virus if they are released into a new body of water. Appropriate hygienic or other routine biosecurity precautions are necessary to protect aquatic animal health and prevent further spread of the disease.



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)



### The Healthy Way

- Thoroughly clean and dry fishing equipment, bait buckets, boats, and trailers before using them again.
- Empty all water from equipment before transporting.
- Remove all mud, plants, and aquatic life from equipment.
- Do not move fish or plants from one body of water to another.
- Do not introduce fish of an unknown health status into populations of farmed fish.

*To learn more, visit*

[www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_dis\\_spec/aquaculture/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/aquaculture/)