



Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

Prevention Fact Sheet

The VHS virus can be spread by infected fish, contaminated water sources (e.g., ballast water, bilge water, live wells), or contaminated objects (e.g., footwear, buckets, nets, fishing rods, water skis, wake boards, etc.). Prevention involves a few basic steps to ensure the virus does not spread to additional locations.

- **Do not move fish between water sources**
 - Infected fish can spread the VHS virus to other fish. Some fish may be infected without showing signs of disease.
 - Buy bait from reliable sources; some states require that bait be bought from certified dealers or shops.
- **Do not dispose of fish or by-products, including unused bait, in any body of water**
 - Dispose of unused fish or fish remains in a secure trash area.
- **Do not transfer water between locations or sources**
 - The VHS virus is shed in the urine, feces, and reproductive fluids of infected fish and can be moved from one waterway to another.
 - Drain all water, including bilge water, ballast tanks, live wells, coolers, before leaving the water source.
- **Clean mud or debris from vehicles and equipment when you move them between water sources**
 - This includes boats, recreational watercraft, trailers, any equipment and footwear.
 - If you are boating or fishing in water known to be infected with VHS virus, disinfect vehicles and equipment with HOT water.
- **Follow all fish health regulations in your state.**
 - View regulations at www.FocusOnFishHealth.org
- **Report fish die offs or fish with external wounds to your state fisheries department**
 - View contacts at <http://www.FocusOnFishHealth.org/state-contacts.php>



Protect Your Waters and Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers Campaign

Learn more about preventing VHS and other aquatic nuisance species

www.protectyourwaters.net/

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