



# Keep Fish Healthy! There's a lot on the line.

Baitfish from contaminated waters could spread VHS and other fish diseases.

[www.FocusOnFishHealth.org](http://www.FocusOnFishHealth.org)



# Help Keep Rivers, Lakes and Streams Healthy—Don't Move Bait!

## **Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)**

is a serious fish disease found in the Great Lakes and nearby waterways.

### **You can prevent the spread of VHS and other fish diseases.**

Don't take your bait from one body of water to another!

## Follow these simple steps:

1. Buy bait from reputable bait dealers. Follow state regulations regarding bait.
2. Don't move bait from one waterway to another. Dispose of unused bait, dead fish and fish parts in a *secure trash area away from the water*. And remember: freezing bait doesn't kill viruses or disease.
3. Empty all water from boats, buckets, bilges, live wells, and other equipment *before moving to another body of water*.
4. Thoroughly clean and dry all fishing and boating equipment including bait buckets, boots, boats and trailers *before moving them to another body of water*.
5. Don't release fish, plants, or animals into a body of water *unless they came out of that water*.

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United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



STOP AQUATIC  
INVASIVES