



**Seaplane
Pilots
Association**

Part of the Solution to Environmental Stewardship

Seaplane Pilots ... Help Save Wisconsin's Lakes



Recent scientific analysis indicates Lake Winnebago and other Wisconsin lakes are definitely contaminated with a virus deadly to the fish industry.

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) virus is an extremely serious pathogen of fresh and saltwater fish, and is causing an emerging disease in the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada. Due to its high mortality and severe economic consequences, VHS is classified as a reportable disease by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). VHS does not pose a threat to humans.

The recent outbreak in the Great Lakes region appears to be a new strain of the virus. This new strain is responsible for die-offs in the following species: muskellunge, smallmouth bass, northern pike, freshwater drum, gizzard shad, yellow perch, black crappie, bluegill, rock bass, white bass, redhorse sucker, bluntnose sucker, round goby, and walleye.

VHS can easily be spread when water is moved from one body of water to another. Please join other seaplane pilots in doing our part to help contain this virus.

- 1. Before you takeoff from Lake Winnebago, make sure you pump your floats dry. Ensure you don't carry bilge water from Lake Winnebago to other lakes.**
- 2. When you land on a different lake, collect any remaining bilge water in a bucket containing bleach, to disinfect the residue before dumping.**
- 3. Amphibians can more easily accomplish this goal. When leaving Lake Winnebago, land at an airport and pump your floats dry into a bleach-water solution before dumping.**
- 4. Inspect your floats for any hitchhiking seaweed or other debris, and toss these into bleach water as well. A fresh water rinse, if available, would be an added measure of environmental caution. Ensure that no mud, water residue, or plant material remains on your seaplane.**



For additional information go to
<http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/pages/vhs.html>