

**STORY: VHS VIRUS**

Air Date: October 2007

Length: 2:25

*Suggested Intro:* THERE'S A FISH VIRUS MOVING THROUGH THE GREAT LAKES THAT COULD KILL HUNDREDS OF FISH FROM GAMEFISH TO PANFISH. DENNY BEHR HAS MORE ON WHAT THIS DISEASE IS, AND HOW THE MINNESOTA DNR IS GETTING READY FOR IT.

*Roll Package*

nats: waves lapping

THE WATERS OF LAKE SUPERIOR CARRY MANY DIFFERENT SOUNDS. THEY ALSO, MAY SOMEDAY CARRY VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA, OR VHS, A VIRUS THAT CAN CAUSE MASSIVE FISH KILLS, LIKE THIS ONE OF GIZZARD SHAD, IN MICHIGAN.

nats: waves

SINCE 2003 VHS HAS BEEN FOUND IN FOUR OF THE FIVE GREAT LAKES. IT'S BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED THERE IN THE BALLAST WATER OF OCEAN GOING SHIPS. EXPERTS LIKE LONG-TIME FISHERIES COLD WATER PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR DARRYL BATHEL, ARE WATCHFUL OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

01:06:54 Darryl "...we still consider Duluth/Superior the highest risk..."

ITS AN UGLY DISEASE. AFFECTED FISH OFTEN HAVE BLOODY SPLOTCHES UNDER THEIR SKIN, AND BULGING EYES. THEIR INTERNAL ORGANS FARE NO BETTER. ITS KILLED FISH SPECIES FROM MUSKIES TO BLUEGILLS...CLOSE TO 50 DIFFERENT KINDS OF FISH ARE AT RISK. THE DNR HAS ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE TO MINNESOTA'S WATERS.

01:07:54 Darryl "...some of the steps that we took were to no longer use the walleye strain in the St. Louis River..."

IT'S BELIEVED THE VIRUS CAN LIVE A FULL TWO WEEKS IN WATER OUTSIDE A HOST FISH. THE DNR HAS A HIGH-TECH WAY TO TREAT THOSE MICROBES IN HATCHERY TANK WATER...ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT.

01:27:14 Darryl "...this would be our primary defense for the hatchery should VHS ever infect Lake Superior..."

PLANNING TO TREAT THE WATER ISN'T THE ONLY THING THE DNR IS CONSIDERING.

01:10:00 Darryl "...we've also said if and when the virus is found in Lake Superior, we would declare a moratorium on stocking trout from the upper hatchery at French River anywhere inland..."

## VHS DISEASE

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nats: Mississippi

THERE ARE OTHER BODIES OF WATER THE DNR'S CONCERNED ABOUT AS WELL.

01:06:58 Darryl "...we also consider the main stem of the Upper Mississippi River as a prime threat to Minnesota..."

BUT THAT THREAT CAN BE REDUCED WITH THE RIGHT PRECAUTIONS.

01:13:57 Darryl "...it can all be boiled down to about three separate principles, one would be don't move your bait from one lake to another, two is don't move live fish from one lake to another, three, don't move water from one lake to another..."

I'M DENNY BEHR, FOR THE MINNESOTA DNR.

*Suggested tag:* JUST LAST MONTH ISLE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK SET IN PLACE EMERGENCY RESTRICTIONS PROHIBITING THE DUMPING OF UNTREATED BALLAST WATER IN LAKE SUPERIOR WATERS WITHIN THE PARK BOUNDARIES. THE VHS VIRUS IS AS NEAR AS EASTERN WISCONSIN. IT WAS FOUND THERE THIS SPRING, IN LAKE WINNEBAGO. IF YOU DISCOVER FISH KILLS, OR FIND FISH WITH SIGNS MENTIONED IN THE STORY, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DNR FISHERIE OR THE DNR ST. PAUL OFFICE AT 1-888-MINNDNR, OR (651) 259-5100. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU CAN ALSO CHECK OUT THE MINNESOTA SEA GRANT WEB SITE AT [WWW.SEAGRANT.UMN.EDU/FISHERIES/VHS\\_VIRUS\\_FACTS](http://WWW.SEAGRANT.UMN.EDU/FISHERIES/VHS_VIRUS_FACTS).

FISH THAT HAVE VHS ARE SAFE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.