

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
QUARANTINE ORDER
Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus

Recitals.

A. Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) is an infectious disease caused by a rhabdovirus – the viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV) - in a variety of fish species.

B. VHS has been designated a “dangerous transmissible disease” of animals pursuant to a temporary order issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) under authority of Section 2321(d) of the Domestic Animal Law (3 Pa.C.S.A. § 2321(d)). The current temporary order making this designation was published in the December 30, 2006 edition of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* (at 36 Pa.B. 7974).

C. PDA has broad authority under the Domestic Animal Law to regulate the keeping and handling of domestic animals in order to exclude, contain or eliminate dangerous transmissible diseases.

D. VHS has caused death losses to various fish species in the Great Lakes and other infected waterways.

E. VHS is of particular concern to Pennsylvania’s aquaculture industry, in that its presence and impact may severely limit the market for Pennsylvania-produced fish and fish products.

F. VHS virus exists within the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario Watersheds, which includes portions of Crawford County, Erie County and Potter County.

G. PDA registers “artificial propagators” of fish and “dealers” of fish under authority of the Aquaculture Development Law (3 Pa.C.S.A. §§ 4201 – 4223). There are PDA-registered artificial propagators and dealers within the Lake Erie Watershed and the Lake Ontario Watershed.

H. VHS virus exists in several States outside this Commonwealth, including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin.

I. There is no known treatment for VHS infection, no vaccine against this disease and no feasible live animal test that can detect the presence of VHSV.

J. The Domestic Animal Law allows (at 3 Pa.C.S.A. § 2329) for the establishment of a Quarantine Order under the circumstances described above.

Order.

PDA enters a General Quarantine Order and an Interstate Quarantine Order with respect to VHS, incorporating the foregoing recitals into this order. This order is entered under authority of the Domestic Animal Law, at 3 Pa.C.S. § 2329, and establishes the following restrictions and conditions:

1. *General.* This order establishes a General Quarantine with respect to VHS-susceptible species (defined below, in Paragraph 2) produced, held or transported by PDA-registered artificial propagators or PDA-registered dealers from those Pennsylvania counties that are – in whole or in part - within the Lake Erie or Lake Ontario Watersheds. This order also establishes an Interstate Quarantine with respect to VHS-susceptible species transported from certain states within which VHS has been detected or is reasonably suspected to exist. For purposes of this order, the terms “VHSV” and “VHS” shall be considered synonymous.

2. *VHS-susceptible species.* For purposes of this order, the term “VHS-susceptible species” shall include live animals, dead animals and dead animal parts of the following fish species, as well as any other fish species designated “VHS-susceptible species” by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA APHIS) after the effective date of this Order: Atlantic Cod (*Gadus morhua*), Black Crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*), Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), Bluntnose Minnow (*Pimephales notatus*), Brown Bullhead (*Ictalurus nebulosus*), Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*), Burbot (*Lota lota*), Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Chum Salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), Emerald Shiner (*Notropis atherinoides*), Freshwater Drum (*Aplodinotus grunniens*), Gizzard Shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*), Grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*), Haddock (*Gadus aeglefinus*), Herring (*Clupea spp.*), Japanese Flounder (*Paralichthys olivaceus*), Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), Muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*), Pacific Cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*), Pike (*Esox lucius*), Pink Salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*), Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Redhorse Sucker (*Moxostoma spp.*), Rock Bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*), Rockling (*Onos mustelus*), Round Goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*), Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), Sprat (*Sprattus spp.*), Turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*), Walleye (*Sander vitreus*), White Bass (*Morone chrysops*), White Perch (*Morone americana*), Whitefish (*Coregonus spp.*) and Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*). The term “VHS-susceptible species” does not include the eggs of these species.

3. *General Quarantine – Imposition.*

a. A General Quarantine is hereby established with respect to the following counties, which are – in whole or in part – within the Lake Erie or Lake Ontario Watersheds: Crawford County, Erie County and Potter County (Quarantined Counties).

b. A PDA-registered artificial propagator of fish species or a PDA-registered dealer of fish species shall not transport VHS-susceptible species from the Quarantined Counties unless the testing and documentation requirements set forth below, in Paragraph 5, are met. The following exceptions apply:

i. VHS-susceptible species may be moved from point-to-point within the Quarantined Counties *without* the PDA-registered artificial propagator or dealer having to comply with the referenced testing and documentation requirements, *if* the VHS-susceptible species are accompanied in transit by documentation stating the point of origin of the fish and the location within the Quarantined Counties to which they are to be delivered.

ii. VHS-susceptible species may be moved from the Quarantined Counties for testing and scientific purposes *without* the PDA-registered artificial propagator or dealer having to comply with the referenced testing and documentation requirements, *if* the VHS-susceptible species are accompanied in transit by documentation stating the point of origin of the fish and the destination to which they are to be delivered for testing.

iii. If a PDA-registered artificial propagator or dealer located within the Quarantined Counties documents to PDA that its operation is *not* located within the Lake Erie or Lake Ontario Watersheds, PDA may issue the propagator or dealer a written permit exempting that part of the propagator or dealer's operation from the requirements of this General Quarantine.

iv. VHS-susceptible species may be moved from the Quarantined Counties directly to a slaughter facility, processing plant or restaurant within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, if accompanied in transit by documentation stating the point of origin of the fish and the destination to which they are to be delivered for slaughter, processing or consumption.

c. A PDA-registered artificial propagator of fish species or a PDA-registered dealer of fish species moving VHS-susceptible species from the Quarantined Counties shall maintain records of any lot of VHS-susceptible species for two years and shall, upon request, produce these records for inspection by any employee or representative of PDA. The records shall include:

i. Species, quantity and destination of fish in the lot, and date of movement.

ii. Origin of fish in the lot (whether hatched on-site or brought live from another source).

iii. Date of VHS-related testing, and results of these tests.

iv. Dates of any additions of fish to the lot, including the source, species and approximate number of fish added to the lot.

d. If VHS-susceptible species are transported from or within a Quarantined County in accordance with subparagraph (b), the following apply:

- i. The VHS-susceptible species shall not be deposited, introduced, dumped, commingled or otherwise permitted to enter the natural water system outside of the Lake Erie or Lake Ontario watersheds.
- ii. Water in which VHS-susceptible species are transported shall not be deposited, introduced, dumped, commingled or otherwise permitted to enter the natural water system outside of the Lake Erie or Lake Ontario watersheds.

4. *Interstate Quarantine - Imposition.*

a. An Interstate Quarantine is hereby established with respect to the following States, which have been designated by USDA APHIS as being either *affected* by VHS or as being *at risk* of being affected by VHS (Quarantined VHS-Affected or VHS At-Risk States): Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin.

b. VHS-susceptible species shall not be transported into the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from the Quarantined VHS-Affected or VHS-At-Risk States unless the testing and documentation requirements set forth below, in Paragraph 5, are met. The following exceptions apply:

i VHS-susceptible species may be moved from Quarantined VHS-Affected or VHS At-Risk States, through this Commonwealth to another State, *if* the shipping container (tank, trailer, holding vessel or other container) remains biosecure in transit *and* the VHS-susceptible species are accompanied in transit by documentation stating the point of origin of the fish and the location outside of this Commonwealth to which they are to be delivered.

ii. VHS-susceptible species may be moved from the Quarantined VHS-Affected or VHS At-Risk States to facilities located within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for testing and scientific purposes *without* the transporter having to comply with the referenced testing and documentation requirements, *if* the VHS-susceptible species are accompanied in transit by documentation stating the point of origin of the fish and the destination to which they are to be delivered for testing.

iii. VHS-susceptible species may be moved from Quarantined VHS-Affected or VHS At-Risk States to a slaughter facility, processing plant or restaurant within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, if accompanied in transit by documentation stating the point of origin of the fish and the destination to which they are to be delivered for slaughter, processing or consumption.

c. If VHS-susceptible species are transported into this Commonwealth from the Quarantined VHS-Affected or VHS-At-Risk States in accordance with subparagraph (b), the following apply:

- i. VHS-susceptible species shall not be deposited, introduced, dumped, commingled or otherwise permitted to enter the natural water system within this Commonwealth.
- ii. Water in which VHS-susceptible species are transported shall not be deposited, introduced, dumped, commingled or otherwise permitted to enter the natural water system within this Commonwealth.

5. *Testing and Documentation Requirements.* VHS-susceptible species that are required to be tested under Paragraphs 3 or 4, above, shall meet the following testing and documentation requirements:

a. Within 12 months preceding movement from a Quarantined County or a Quarantined VHS-Affected or VHS-At-Risk State, the VHS-susceptible species lot shall be tested in accordance with *either* the testing protocols described in the current edition of the *Fish Health Section Bluebook* adopted by the American Fisheries Society, or the testing protocols of the Office of International Epizootiologies (OIE), and the lot shall be test-negative for VHS.

b. If fish are added to a lot of VHS-susceptible species *after* the testing described in Paragraph (a), above, is completed, the lot shall be re-tested in accordance with Paragraph (a) and found VHS test-negative prior to movement.

c. Documentation of VHS status shall accompany VHS-susceptible species that are required to be tested under Paragraphs 3 or 4, above, at all times the VHS-susceptible species remain within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and shall, upon request, be produced for inspection by any employee or representative of PDA. This documentation shall include the following:

- i. A completed Aquaculture Verification Certificate form. This form will be provided by PDA upon request. Requests can be made to the following:

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services
ATTN: Aquaculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Telephone: (717) 772-2852

- ii. A copy of the test results reflecting that the lot is VHS test-negative.

6. *Violations.* Any person violating the requirements of this Order shall be subject to criminal prosecution and/or civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation.

7. *Effective Date.* This Order is immediately effective on this date, and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or modified by subsequent order.

8. *Additional Restrictions.* This Order shall not be construed as limiting PDA's authority to establish additional quarantine or testing requirements relating to VHS.

BY THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dennis C Wolff, Secretary

Date

AQUACULTURE VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE

For artificial propagators and dealers of fish species located within the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus Quarantined Counties in Pennsylvania, and also the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin to ship VHS-susceptible fish species into the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Section A: Premise Information

State of Origin: _____ Premise ID: _____

Aquaculture License Number: _____

Lot Owner: _____

Address of Lot: _____

Phone Number of Lot Owner/ Manager: _____

Type of Fish that Qualify for movement (Quantity, species, size/age.)

Section B: Testing Information

The above identified lot has been established and no fish have been added to this lot since testing. Randomly selected fish have been tested according to OIE or American Fisheries Society "Fish Health Section Blue Book" standards. The negative test results are valid for 365 days, if no additional fish were added to the lot. The negative test results must be attached to this Certificate.

Test Date: _____ Laboratory Accession Number: _____

Expiration Date of Certificate: _____

Section C: Official Tester Verification

I certify that I have randomly sampled the fish from the above identified lot. I have inspected the fish as described above and no signs of clinical disease were observed and the fish tested negative for Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus.

Printed name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I am a (select one): State Official, Federal Official,
 Accredited Veterinarian, Certified Aquaculture Technician

Section D: Lot Owner/ Manager Verification

Lot Owner/ Manager Printed Name: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____