



**University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point**  
Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility



36455 State Highway 13  
P.O. Box 165, Bayfield, WI 54814  
715-779-3189; Fax 715-779-3189

## **Wisconsin Fish Farmers: DATCP Rule Changes on Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)**

The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has prepared both a new Emergency Rule Docket No. 08-R-06 and a proposed Final Rule Docket No 07-R-01. The previous Emergency Rule concerning Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) expired on May 28, 2008 so there was a need for a second emergency rule because the proposed “permanent” rule is not in effect.

There is a hearing for the Second Emergency Rule on **Friday August 1, 2008**, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm at DATCP, 2811 Agriculture Drive, First Floor – Room 106 (Board Room), Madison, Wisconsin. Attached is the Emergency Rule in pdf format for your review. The wording of this emergency rule reverts back to the language of ATCP permanent rules prior to the first emergency rule. Among other things, this emergency rule helps to clarify language in the first rule, references fish or fish eggs distributed by a bait dealer, and makes an additional provision (permit) for reintroduction of fish or fish eggs back into the same water body from which they were collected (walleye wagons). Read the rule carefully and if you have questions contact Melissa Mace at Division of Animal Health, P O Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911, (608) 224-4883 or [Melissa.mace@wi.gov](mailto:Melissa.mace@wi.gov). You can make comments at the hearing or written comments will remain open until Friday, August 8, 2008 and can be sent to the above address.

The DATCP Board meeting to approve the proposed final rule is **Wednesday August 6, 2008**. You may speak in front of the board or provide written testimony to them at the meeting. If you wish to make an appearance in front of the board or provide written comment please contact Karen Schultz at (608) 224-5023 or [Karen.Schultz@wi.gov](mailto:Karen.Schultz@wi.gov), and she can provide you with all the details you need to know. Attached are excerpts from the proposed final rule that pertain to fish and fish farming (the entire document is 78 pages). There are some new provisions including creation of a Type 3 fish farm (that receive fish or fish eggs from the wild), a section on “medically separated” and fees associated with the inspection, clarification of requirement for fish health certificates, “walleye wagon” language from emergency rule 2, and language concerning bait fish. Read the proposed rules carefully and if you have questions contact Melissa Mace, Division of Animal Health, P O Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911, (608)224-4883 or [Melissa.mace@wi.gov](mailto:Melissa.mace@wi.gov).

It is important that fish farmers voice their remarks - not only their concerns, but also positive comments - during the public comment periods. Doing so assures DATCP that stakeholders understand the changes and allows the agency to adjust rules when necessary. NADF, Aquaculture Extension and WAA are planning to again host a Rules Workshop on December 5, 2008 in the Madison area. We anticipate having DNR, DATCP, USDA APHIS, and possibly the USFWS make presentation at the workshop. More details will be announced at a later date.

If you have general questions regarding rules affecting fish farms, please contact Ron Johnson, Aquaculture Outreach Specialists at [ron.johnson@uwsp.edu](mailto:ron.johnson@uwsp.edu) or (715) 779-3189.