

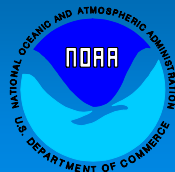
# National Aquatic Animal Health Plan and Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

North Carolina Aquaculture Conference  
Atlantic City, NC  
February 9, 2007  
Dr. Gary Egrie



## Who is developing this NAAHP?

- The Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture's National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force on Aquaculture (NAAHTF)
- The NAAHTF is comprised of the three Federal agencies with primary regulatory authority for aquatic animal health:



## Is the NAAHTF developing the NAAHP on its own?

- Task Force identifies elements of NAAHP
- Stakeholder input received through work group meetings
- Task Force writes chapters; reviewed by JSA and stakeholders
- Federal agencies implement the Plan



## Chapters Currently Available for Review:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Definitions
- Chapter 3: Roles, Responsibilities and Authorities of Federal, State, and Tribal Governments and Private Industry for Aquatic Animal Health in the United States
- Chapter 4: Aquatic Animal Diseases of Concern



## How Do I Provide Input?

- Directly through the Task Force
- Directly via website

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>

- Task Force Technical Representatives:  
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## When will the NAAHP be Finished?

- Draft document to be complete by Spring 2007
- Entire document open to stakeholder review and comment
- Implementation to come **after** the NAAHP is complete
- Flexibility to implement needed programs, i.e. ISA, SVC, White Spot, etc.

## Is the NAAHP a Regulation?

- No – recommendations for programs that may vary by species and disease
- Will there be regulations related to the NAAHP?
  - Import Protocols
  - Indemnity
  - Eradication/Control/Management Programs



## Once the NAAHP is Complete, is the Process Complete?

- The NAAHP must be flexible to continue to be valid and meet the needs of ALL stakeholders
- Need for a forum to periodically review and revise the NAAHP

## What is VHS?

- VHS is a serious viral disease of certain fish species
- VHS is listed by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as notifiable

## What is VHS?

- There are currently 5 known strains of VHS (Europe, Japan and N. America)
- Prior to 2005, VHS in the US was due to Type IV, which caused disease mainly in marine fish species on both N. American coasts



Photo courtesy of T. Hastein



Photo courtesy of CEFAS

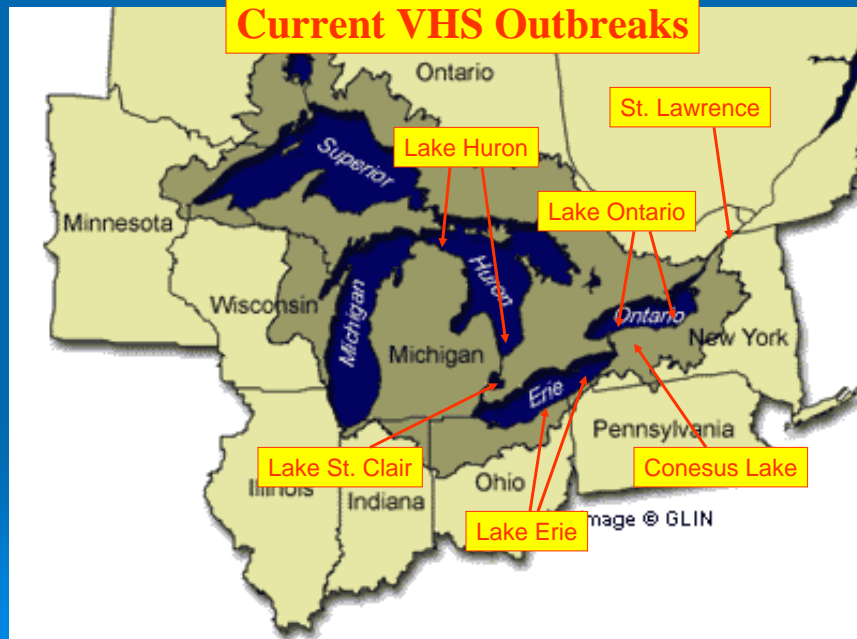


Photos courtesy of M. Faisal, Michigan State University

## Why is VHS important now?

- New virus, new hosts, new environment
- No treatments are effective
- Unregulated movement of VHS-susceptible species puts US farmed fish health at risk
- State regulations variable and ineffective
- Affected vs. Non-affected areas

## Current VHS Outbreaks



**Freshwater species from which VHS virus has been isolated include:**

- Round gobies
- Smallmouth bass
- Largemouth bass
- Muskellunge
- Northern pike
- Burbot
- Freshwater drum
- Yellow Perch
- Walleye
- Bluntnose minnow
- Pumpkinseed
- Black crappie
- Bluegill
- Gizzard Shad
- Emerald shiners
- Brown trout
- Rainbow trout
- Atlantic salmon
- Pacific salmon (spp)
- White bass
- White perch
- Rockling
- Rock bass
- Redhorse sucker
- Rockling

**March 14, 2006: Gizzard Shad Mortalities**

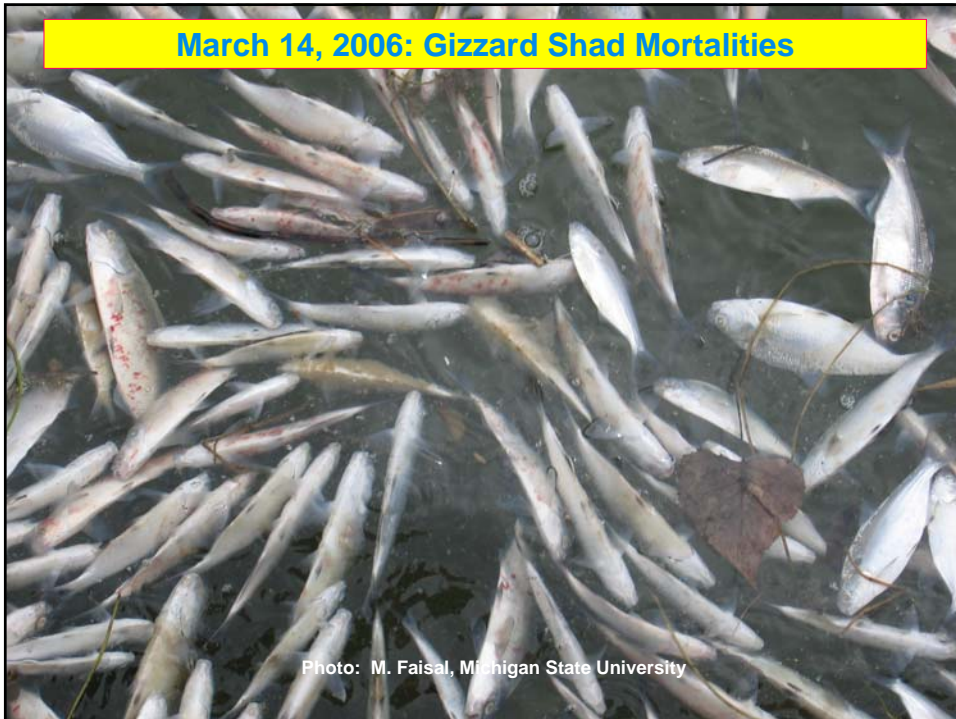


Photo: M. Faisal, Michigan State University

## Federal Order

- Emergency Action taken to prevent the spread of a disease such as VHS
- Temporary administrative measure when there is not sufficient time to write a regulation
- Must be followed-up by formal rulemaking
- VHS Federal Order was issued 10/24/2006, and amended 11/14/2006

## Current Provisions Under the Federal Order

- VHS susceptible species are restricted from moving out of the 8 States and 2 Canadian Provinces bordering the Great Lakes
  - Movement to slaughter
  - Movement to a research or diagnostic lab
  - Movement of live fish testing negative for VHS virus by laboratory assays
  - Movement of salmonids from Canada that meet Title 50 requirements

## Next Steps

- **Develop a rule to replace the emergency Federal Order**
  - **Potential scope of the regulations**
    - Affected watersheds
    - 4 States that currently have had outbreaks
    - 8 Great Lakes States
    - All 50 States
    - All countries
    - All virus strains
  - **Will provide for specific testing requirements**

## Next Steps

- **Define US Entry (Import) Requirements**
  - **Health Certificates, Import Permits, Specified Ports**
  
- **Define Interstate Movement Requirements**
  - **Health Certificates, Interstate Certificates of Inspection**

## Additional Comments

- Additional comments can be made after interim rule is published
- Paul.G.Egrie@aphis.usda.gov  
For more information see:  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/>

## QUESTIONS ?

