ATTENTION MICHIGAN LAKE MANAGERS!

The Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus (VHS) is spreading from already infected lakes surrounding our state. (Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, and Lake St. Clair) to inland lakes. It has spread to inland lakes in Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio and New York. It causes massive fish kills and once in a lake cannot be removed.

Save your lake from the VHS virus by setting up a disinfection station at your boat launch(es). Go to the Michigan Lakes and Stream Assn. web site www.MLSWA.org and click on the yellow "Watercraft Disinfection Station". There are 3 easy steps for building a station. Total cost is about $330 (permit included). The station at Eagle Harbor, MI is pictured below.

The disinfectant we are using is much safer than bleach and recommended by the MI DNR. (See enclosed letter). Virkon® Aquatic is environmentally safe and approved by the EPA. The MI DNR uses Virkon® Aquatic to disinfect their boats and equipment! Trained volunteers will mix the 1% solution in a 30 gal tank for use by the general public. The disinfection station does not have to be staffed by an attendant and should be able to run all season on donations from anglers. Recommend mail-in donations as opposed to a lock box at the station. To ensure having sufficient Virkon Aquatic® powder, get the township or city to cover any 'shortfall' of donations. Try for some grant money.

The "sign" was edited by the DNR for accuracy so don't change the wording. It is located on the web site – click on sign. It describes in detail the proper way to disinfect a boat. Our sign maker will make it in durable aluminum. You may also make it locally. Suggest at least 18" by 24".

This is a voluntary program. If a boat is out of the water and dry for 4-5 days or a boater puts in and out of your lake exclusively during the season, then disinfection is not necessary.

Lake Superior is the only one of the Great Lakes not infected yet. If your lake or boat launch has access to Lake Superior, then it is imperative you act quickly.