

## ***VHS Virus Confirmed***

*VHS Virus Confirmed In Baseline Lake & Lake St. Clair - Aug 20: Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) announced that it has confirmed the presence of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus (VHSv) in samples of fish collected this spring in Baseline Lake in Washtenaw County and in Lake St. Clair. Baseline Lake becomes the second inland lake in Michigan in which VHSv is present. Gary Whelan, fish production manager for MDNR's Fisheries Division said, "These are the first positive detections since 2007 in Michigan's waters. The fish that tested positive were collected this spring during routine surveillance efforts, and were confirmed positive by multiple laboratories."*

*After VHSv was first detected in Michigan, MDNR began a surveillance program to collect fish from a range of waters for testing each year. This program has been funded in part by grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture -- Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS). Through June 2009, VHSv surveillance efforts have been conducted on 45 water bodies throughout Michigan.*

*Baseline Lake was sampled for the first time in 2009, and VHSv was found in brown bullheads that were collected during the survey. Baseline Lake is the second inland water body in Michigan in which fish have been found to be positive for VHSv -- the first was Budd Lake in Clare County in 2007. Other fish species sampled, including bluegills and rock bass, tested negative for the virus.*

*Access a lengthy release from MDNR ([click here](#)). [\*MIWildlife]*