



# Newsletter

November 15, 2006

(Substituting October 15 issue)

## President's Message

The front lines of the aquaculture and baitfish industries have been busy this year. On an unprecedented note: USDA recently came out with the numbers to show that US aquaculture is now a billion dollar industry. Congratulations for all that have contributed! Cheers to this year and next!!

Unfortunately, this good news from USDA experienced only minor gratification. Less than 3 weeks after this news release, on 10/24/06, USDA APHIS imposed the emergency order (EO) restricting interstate transport of 37 species of live fish from the Great Lakes basin on the basis of protecting the aquaculture industry from VHS outbreaks, observed in the Eastern Great Lakes 2003-2006. Information on the EO can be found at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/>.

An extreme amount of effort has been made to date by certain MAA members on protecting the rights and interests of both the aquaculture and baitfish industries in the region. Individuals from MDA, MDNR, Farm Bureau, Baitfish industry and a host of others, have also contributed significantly. Our hope is that in the very near future, the EO will be modified to allow for certified VHS free fish to again move. The importance of collectively working together towards the best solution on this issue cannot be stressed nearly enough.

The actions by APHIS will impact a number of industries throughout the nation. It is expected, that the EO will be replaced by an interim ruling (IR) within an estimated time frame of 2-6 months. It is also expected that MDNR will modify importation, baitfish, and public water stocking regulations in some form with intentions to prevent or slow spread of VHS to additional water bodies. MAA will keep updated information on VHS regulations coming through the MICHAQUA group network. If you are not on the list, I highly recommend that you sign up now.

Other regulations to watch include the laws pertaining to aquatic invasive species and DEQ NPDES requirements. Let's continue to work hard to keep exotics out of Michigan. Also, anyone with close proximity to curly leaf, Eurasian milfoil,

phragmites or purple loosestrife should know that they are restricted species, and laws exist (PA451) that can result in heavy fines for movement of such. Concerning NPDES permits, MDEQ is presently following federal guidelines (20,000lbs cold water/100,000 pounds warm water annual production), but has stated authority to impose NPDES permits on any facility if they feel it is warranted.

For those of you who missed it, MAA had a bi-annual meeting at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery in August. We had a great and eventful meeting, an informative fish disease presentation by USFWS, and fantastic "trout al a Bob" with all the fixins. Special thanks to the USFWS, the Jordan River Fish Hatchery, and event planners!

I would like to extend sincere greetings to Ken Clifford, Leo and Theresa Giannola, and anyone else considering a livelihood in aquaculture. Welcome to the Michigan Aquaculture Industry.

May all of you be successful in all that you do! Let's continue to work hard and diligently together!!

Chris Weeks

## **USDA PROHIBITS IMPORTS FROM TWO CANADIAN PROVINCES AND INTERSTATE MOVEMENTS FROM EIGHT STATES OF FISH SUSCEPTIBLE TO VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24, 2006--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service issued an emergency order today prohibiting the importation of certain species of live fish from two Canadian provinces into the United States and the interstate movement of the same species from the eight states bordering the Great Lakes due to outbreaks of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS).

This action is in response to the rapid spread of VHS in the Great Lakes region and the potential impact on

a growing number of fish species. VHS is a destructive pathogen that produces clinical signs in fish including internal hemorrhaging and death. The disease does not pose a risk to people, but it has been found to affect a number of fish species previously not known to be susceptible including baitfish species, Coho salmon and channel catfish.

In addition to prohibiting the importation of certain species of live fish from Ontario and Quebec, Canada, the interstate movement of these species will also be prohibited from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Dead and diseased wild fish have been reported in Lakes Ontario, St. Clair and Erie as well as the St. Lawrence River. An outbreak was also reported last month in fish from New York's Conesus Lake, a body of water in the Great Lakes watershed but without direct connection to the lower Great Lakes. It is not known how this disease arrived in the Great Lakes area, but APHIS will continue to monitor the situation and take whatever actions are necessary to control its spread.

With the number of the potentially susceptible fish species still growing, new fish species affected by this emergency order will be updated as necessary to prevent the further spread of this disease. For a complete list of live fish included in the emergency order, please visit our Web site at [www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/).

The emergency order putting these protections in place can be found on our Website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/>. An interim rule is anticipated to be enacted in early 2007 detailing the new requirements.

## Mark your Calendar's

Week of **November 27<sup>th</sup>** Fish (salmonids) Health Testing will be conducted. Anyone needing this screening test, please contact Bob Baldwin at 231/796-2284 or [rnbaldwin@charter.net](mailto:rnbaldwin@charter.net).

## **December 19-21, 2006**

A 3-day Seafood HACCP Course will offered again at \$90.00 per person. Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State University Extension in collaboration with the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission are sponsoring the 3day AFDO/Seafood Alliance HACCP training course at Bay Mills Community College. Contact Ron Kinnunen at 906/226-3687 or [kinnunel@msu.edu](mailto:kinnunel@msu.edu) for registration information.

## **February 6 & 7, 2007**

### **MAA Annual Meeting**

This year's theme: ***Aquaculture in Michigan*** at McGuire's Resort - Cadillac, Michigan

Tentative schedule includes 3 half day sessions:

- 1) The Michigan Aquaculture Industry
  - a) State and regional industry summary
  - b) Potentials for Co-op
  - c) How to build your local market
- 2) Current and future challenges of MI Aquaculture
  - a) Overview of permitting and regulations
  - b) Current and future problems (VHS)
  - c) Economics
  - d) Fish health
  - e) Farmed vs Wild fish
- 3) Starting an aquaculture business  
Case study
  - 1: Rainbow trout facility
  - 2: Pond stocking
  - 3: Fee fishing
  - 4: Indoor pond and koi

Start spreading the news! Registration will open as soon as the agenda is set.

**2007 Annual Meeting information** will be available in the January newsletter and at the [www.michiganaquaculture.com](http://www.michiganaquaculture.com) web site.

## NEW - Regional Extension Specialist

Prompted by industry requests, the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) has recently hired a new extension specialist to supplement the region's current aquaculture extension ranks. As the new "Regional Aquaculture Extension Specialist", JJ Newman Rode will be working in all 12 NCRAC states, bringing the region's full-time equivalents (FTEs) in aquaculture extension to 4.35.



Newman Rode comes to the North Central Region from University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, where she worked on statewide aquaculture development for the past nine years. Some years prior to that, from 1990-1993, she worked on a Michigan aquaculture feasibility study for the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station. She has been involved with aquaculture - as an extension specialist, researcher and student - since 1983.

Newman Rode is spending her time initially getting up-to-speed with the aquaculture situation throughout the region. "When I worked in Michigan before, I was housed in the same building as NCRAC, and I was lucky enough to become familiar with the aquaculture situation and some of the growers in many North Central states. So, while I am familiar with aquaculture in the region, I am seriously out of date and need to get caught up. I also want to find out what kinds of additional extension efforts are needed in this region, and how I can best support the existing extension specialists. I want to talk with as many industry people as possible, state association members, extension folks and state agency people. I need to read the NCRAC white papers, state aquaculture plans, legislation and regulations in the different states. I also want to visit as many farms across the region as I can in the next six months or so. I have a lot to do!", she laughs.

Newman Rode was hired through a three-year NCRAC grant to Ohio State University, and is housed at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. You can reach her by email at: [jjrode@purdue.edu](mailto:jjrode@purdue.edu)

## U.S. AQUACULTURE A BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY, USDA REPORTS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2, 2006 – Aquaculture production is a billion-dollar industry, with sales of fish, shellfish and related products growing by 11.7 percent over the past seven years, according to results of the 2005 Census of Aquaculture.

The 2005 count was the second nationwide aquaculture census conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The first took place in 1998. Results show that between 1998 and 2005, U.S. sales of aquaculture products grew from \$978 million to nearly \$1.1 billion.

Census results show that food fish – including catfish, perch, salmon, hybrid striped bass, tilapia and trout – accounted for 62 percent of all aquaculture sales in 2005. Mollusks – including abalone, clams, mussels and oysters – comprised 19 percent of 2005 sales. Crustaceans, such as lobsters and shrimp, and ornamental fish, such as koi and tropical fish, each accounted for approximately 5 percent of sales. They were followed by baitfish at 4 percent and sport fish at 2 percent.

Mississippi led the nation in sales of aquaculture products, with \$250 million dollars in 2005. Arkansas, Alabama and Louisiana were the other states with sales topping \$100 million. Louisiana had the largest number of aquaculture farms. The state's 873 farms were more than double the number in any other state.

The 2005 Census of Aquaculture collected detailed information on issues including production methods, water sources, sales, distribution and farm labor. For the purpose of the census, an aquaculture farm was any commercial or non-commercial place from which \$1,000 or more of aquaculture products were raised and sold, or distributed for restoration, conservation or recreational purposes during the census year.

Complete results of the 2005 Census of Aquaculture are available online at:

[www.nass.usda.gov/aquaculture/index.asp](http://www.nass.usda.gov/aquaculture/index.asp)

## Spring Viremia of Carp – Another Disease of Concern

*Excerpt from: Transmission of exotic fish viruses: The relative risks of wild and cultured bait. Fisheries 29(5): 19-23, 2004. Goodwin et al.*

The recent discovery of spring viremia of carp (SVC) virus in the United States has raised new questions about the safety of live freshwater baitfish. The SVC virus is recognized as one of the most significant fish pathogens by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and is common in Europe but never previously found in North America. In the spring of 2002, SVC virus was discovered in koi (*Cyprinus carpio*) grown by a major koi dealer in North Carolina (Goodwin 2002). At about the same time, it was reported in several lakes and rivers in Wisconsin including the Mississippi River (Marcquenski et al. 2003). The SVC virus infects a broad range of fish species (primarily cyprinids) and causes high mortality in susceptible hosts in cold water where the fish immune response is impaired (Ahne et al. 2002). Due to the pathogenicity, host diversity, and regulatory status of the SVC virus, the discovery of SVC in the United States caused state wildlife agencies to become concerned about the potential of baitfish to move the disease.

### Important Web Resource Contacts:

**National Aquaculture Program  
APHIS Services for the Aquaculture Industry**  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/>

**Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia in the Great Lakes  
July 2006**

**Emerging Disease Notice**  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cei/taf/emergingdiseasenotice\\_files/vhsgreatlakes.htm](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cei/taf/emergingdiseasenotice_files/vhsgreatlakes.htm)

**DNR Confirms Virus in Lake St. Clair Fish**  
[http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10371\\_10402-147041--M\\_2006\\_7,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10371_10402-147041--M_2006_7,00.html)

**Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia in the Great Lakes Region  
August 2006**  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/content/printable\\_version/ia\\_VHS\\_Great\\_Lakes.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/ia_VHS_Great_Lakes.pdf)

## Join the MAA email discussion listing

If you're hooked up to the internet and not a part of the MAA discussion group your missing out on great discussions and important legislative update information. To register, go to the following site:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michaqua/>

## Aquaculture Interest Column

In every newsletter we would like to add at least one article written by a member of MAA. This could be something about your farm, experiences, concerns you may have, a study you might have done, or just about anything you feel would be worth passing on (aquaculture related please). If you have something you would like to contribute, send a copy to either Bob Baldwin or Chris Weeks.

## Current Officers

President: Chris Weeks 517/353-5453  
Vice President: Bob Baldwin 231/796-2284  
Sec/Treas: Steve Ouwinga 231/834-7720  
Director: Russ Allen 517/347-5537  
Director: Robert Lee 517/549-3402

## Classified Ads

**Advertising Info:** Contact Steve Ouwinga at (231) 834-7720. Rates: \$15/ad, up to 40 words - additional words @ 35 cents per word. Newsletter dates are Jan 5, April 15, July 15 and October 15, please submit your ad no later than 5 days prior to these publishing dates.

**Brown trout for sale.** Cedarbrook Trout Farms has an over stock of Brown trout. 4-6" \$500.00/1000 and 7-9" \$900.00/1000. Call Jerry Kahn at 989/724-5241.

## New Web Site

**Great Lakes Fish Health :**  
[www.greatlakesfishhealth.com](http://www.greatlakesfishhealth.com) is being developed to help aquaculturists of the Great Lakes basin and Mississippi Drainage system to stay on top of regional fish health issues. The developer's intentions is to keep you abreast of all current regulatory issues and industry comments as they develop.

## Members Note:

During the last several weeks, your Aquaculture and Baitfish leaders have been working around the clock in keeping our industries alive. All avenues are being studied and the negotiations continue, but the answers to the VHS problem will probably not be resolved very quickly. Stay Tuned to this Channel!