

MI DNR Baitfish Inspection Guidance

January 19, 2007

1. All fish inspected and certified free of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) using the following protocol will be approved for sale throughout the State of Michigan.
2. In-State Storage Facilities – Fish from Wild Sources
 - a. All minnow species listed in the USDA-APHIS Emergency Order will need to be certified VHS negative to be sold anywhere in Michigan.
 - b. Species
 - i. Currently only emerald shiners need to be certified.
 - c. Sampling
 - i. Facilities with Separate Lots in Separate Ponds
 1. A lot is defined as a group of fish that are the same species, originate from the same collection location and date, and remain on the same water supply at the storage facility.
 2. Each lot should be inspected separately using 60 fish collected at random from the lot.
 3. Fish should be collected by a state vet, licensed vet, other AFS certified fish inspector or state fisheries staff approved by the competent authority (Fisheries Chief or designate).
 4. All fish should be delivered live to the diagnostics laboratory as it yields the best information and improves the speed of analysis. If fish can not be delivered live then dead fish should be placed on ice but not frozen.
 5. Each new lot placed into the storage facility should be inspected upon arrival at the facility.
 - ii. Facilities with Fish Mixed from Multiple Locations
 1. The entire facility should be tested using 180 fish collected in a uniform random manner.
 - a. Example – If 6 ponds have fish from mixed sources then 30 fish should be collected randomly from each pond and pooled together as the farm sample.
 2. If there are multiple storage facilities, then each should be inspected separately using 180 fish.
 3. Fish should be collected by a state vet, licensed vet, other American Fisheries Society (AFS) certified fish inspector or state fisheries staff approved by the state competent authority (Fisheries Chief or designate).
 4. All fish should be delivered live to the diagnostics laboratory as it yields the best information and improves the speed of analysis. If fish can not be

delivered live then dead fish should be placed on ice but not frozen.

5. Each new group of fish placed into the storage facility should be inspected upon arrival at the facility.

3. In-State Aquaculture Reared Baitfish

a. Species

- i. Currently only emerald shiners need to be certified.

b. Aquaculture reared baitfish using a single facility

i. Sampling

1. A lot is defined as a group of fish that are the same species, from the same broodstock source and collection date, and remain on the same water supply.
2. Each lot should be inspected separately using 60 fish.
3. Fish should be collected by a state vet, licensed vet, other AFS certified fish inspector or state fisheries staff approved by the competent authority (Fisheries Chief or designate).
4. All fish should be delivered live to the diagnostics laboratory as it yields the best information and improves the speed of analysis. If fish can not be delivered live then dead fish should be placed on ice but not frozen.
5. Each new lot placed into the storage facility should be inspected upon arrival at the facility.

4. Imported Bait using Storage Facilities – Fish from Wild Sources

- a. All imported baitfish are required to be certified to be VHS free to be imported into Michigan.

b. Species

- i. Currently only emerald shiners need to be certified.

c. Sampling

i. Facilities with Separate Lots in Separate Ponds

1. A lot is defined as a group of fish that are the same species, originate from the same collection location and date, and remain on the same water supply at the storage facility.
2. Each lot should be inspected separately using 60 fish collected at random from the lot.
3. Fish should be collected by a state vet, licensed vet, other AFS certified fish inspector or state fisheries staff approved by the competent authority (Fisheries Chief or designate).
4. All fish should be delivered live to the diagnostics laboratory as it yields the best information and improves the speed of analysis. If fish can not be delivered live then dead fish should be placed on ice but not frozen.

5. Each new lot placed into the storage facility should be inspected upon arrival at the facility.
- ii. Facilities with Fish Mixed from Multiple Locations
 1. The entire facility should be tested using 180 fish collected in a uniform random manner.
 - a. Example – If 6 ponds have fish from mixed sources then 30 fish should be collected randomly from each pond and pooled together as the farm sample.
 2. If there are multiple storage facilities, then each should be inspected separately using 180 fish.
 3. Fish should be collected by a state vet, licensed vet, other AFS certified fish inspector or state fisheries staff approved by the state competent authority (Fisheries Chief or designate).
 4. All fish should be delivered live to the diagnostics laboratory, if possible as it yields the best information and improves the speed of analysis. If fish can not be delivered live then dead fish should be placed on ice but not frozen.
 5. Each new group of fish placed into the storage facility should be inspected upon arrival at the facility.
5. Imported Baitfish from Aquaculture Facilities
 - a. All imported baitfish are required to be certified to be VHS free to be imported into Michigan.
 - b. Species
 - i. Currently only emerald shiners need to be certified.
 - c. Aquaculture reared baitfish using a single facility
 - i. Sampling
 1. A lot is defined as a group of fish that are the same species, from the same broodstock source and collection date, and remain on the same water supply.
 2. Each lot should be inspected separately using 60 fish.
 3. Fish should be collected by a state vet, licensed vet or other AFS certified fish inspector.
 4. All fish should be delivered live to the diagnostics laboratory, if possible as it yields the best information and improves the speed of analysis. If fish can not be delivered live then dead fish should be placed on ice but not frozen.
 5. Each new lot placed into the storage facility should be inspected upon arrival at the facility.
 - d. Aquaculture reared baitfish using extensive pond systems provided fry from parent facilities
 - i. Sampling

1. A lot is defined as a group of fish that are the same species, from the same broodstock source and collection date, and remain on the same water supply.
2. Each lot should be inspected separately using 60 fish.
3. A subgroup of the total pond system will be sampled with a 60 fish lot from each selected pond. Information will need to be provided on the number of ponds used by a facility.
4. Fish should be collected by a state vet, licensed vet or other AFS certified fish inspector.
5. All fish should be delivered live to the diagnostics laboratory as it yields the best information and improves the speed of analysis. If fish can not be delivered live then dead fish should be placed on ice but not frozen.

6. Laboratories

- a. Please contact any lab prior to collecting samples to ensure lab has the capacity to handle the samples, to determine where and when to ship the samples, and any additional shipping/packaging information.
- b. Acceptable Labs
 - i. The following are known acceptable labs. Other labs maybe used after consultation with MI DNR Fisheries staff so please email or call first.
 - ii. Michigan Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory at Michigan State University
 1. Contact – Michelle Gunn (517-432-8258 or healthyfish@cvm.msu.edu) or Dr. Mohamed Faisal (517-432-8259 or healthyfish@cvm.msu.edu)
 - iii. Micro Technologies Inc. – Richmond, ME]
 1. Phone – 207-737-2637
 2. Web - <http://www.microtechnologies.biz/default.aspx>

7. Certification Process

- a. After receiving the fish health inspection and inspection, please send this information to Mr. Gary Whelan by FAX (517-373-0381), email using scans (whelang@michigan.gov) or regular mail (Gary Whelan, MI DNR Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 30446, Lansing, MI 48909).
- b. Fisheries Division staff will review the fish health inspection and VHS certification. A letter to verify that the fish from a lot or farm are acceptable to be shipped anywhere in Michigan will be provided back to the applicant.
- c. Please make sure that a copy of the certification remains with the fish from the certified lot or farm as they are being shipped and provide a copy of the letter to subsequent wholesalers or dealers. A copy of the certification should be made available for inspection at all locations that the fish are moved to.

