



THE SMALLMOUTH HORIZON

Helping to Protect and Preserve Quality Smallmouth Bass Fishing

September 2008

Results of VHS testing are encouraging

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reports that it has completed testing for VHS fish disease for this year and the results indicate that the virus has not spread or caused the massive fish kills that were once feared possible.

Fish were tested in 67 bodies including: several locations in the Wisconsin River, Lakes Kegonsa and Koshkonong, the Gile and Willow flowages, the Minocqua Chain, Little St. Germain and Lac Courte Oreilles.

"We can't say with 100 percent certainty that VHS is not somewhere outside these known waters, but it's certainly not prevalent," says Tim Simonson, the fish biologist who has been coordinating DNR's VHS surveillance effort. "We've looked at so many different places and so many different watersheds."

The only positive results found, were from round gobies and yellow perch in Lake Michigan where the disease had already been known to occur.

"This is good news on all fronts," says Wisconsin Fisheries Director Mike Staggs. "There was a lot of concern in 2007 that VHS was already widespread in Wisconsin and that it would spread rapidly," he says. "Based on the sampling we've done last year and this year, it's clear that's not the case, and that's a very good thing."

"We thought the virus could be contained if we could get boaters and anglers to drain their boats and not move live fish," he says. "It seems we've been successful and we're thankful for the public response."

"We need boaters and anglers to keep up the good work now and in the future to contain VHS and other invasive species."

The DNR already is planning to do more testing next year and is applying for a federal grant to help fund the project.

Boaters reminded to be on lookout for debris and work crews on Wisconsin River

MADISON - The Department of Natural Resources warns boaters to watch carefully for debris and clean up efforts along the Wisconsin River downstream from the Lake Delton area to approximately the Columbia Power Plant. Clean up efforts have been underway since shortly after the early summer floods but debris is still present and can present a serious hazard to boaters.

"We documented more than 80 visible piles of debris along this portion of the river," said Barbara Wolf, regional warden supervisor for DNR's South Central Region. "Significant progress has been made in removing debris from the river but it still exists and warrants caution on the part of boaters."

Over 90,000 pounds of debris have been removed from the river to date by Living Lands & Waters, contractor for the clean up effort.

"I want to extend special thanks to all the volunteers who have been so helpful on a daily basis assisting us with the clean up effort," said Chad Pregracke, founder and president of Living Lands & Waters. "It has been great working with them and we appreciate their donated time and effort in getting the river back to pre-flood conditions."

Removal work will continue into the September. Crews will be on the water in work boats and jet boats which are needed to reach shallow areas.

While much of the large piles of debris have been cleared, DNR officials ask that boaters sighting debris report the locations to Ted Amman (608) 516-3621 so that clean up crews can respond.

During an August outing on Wisconsin's Menominee River, good weather and good fishing was the rule.

Ray Mirande, in his kickboat, gets a tow back to the landing from Rick Reese.

Andy Davidson displays a smallie caught from his kickboat while Dan Johnson shows one that took a crayfish-colored jig.



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Articles, photos, information, and calendar events for the newsletter are encouraged and should be submitted by the 1st day of the month of issue to: Dan Johnson, 426 Glenway St., Madison WI 53711. If possible, MSWord files sent to: johnson7@tds.net are most appreciated.

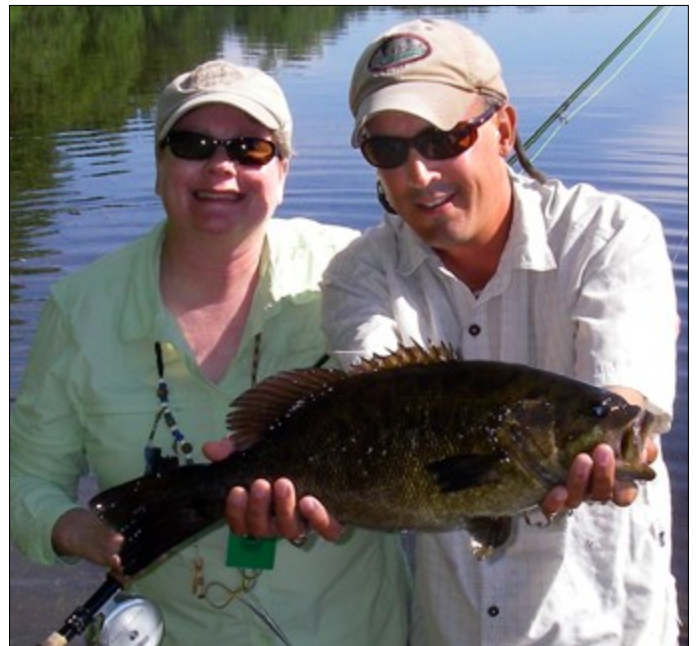


Why are these people smiling?

Well, it might have something to do with the 21 inch smallmouth that they just caught.

Rick Reese got two of them on a recent trip to the Menominee River.

And guide Tim Landwehr displays Lynn Langenfeld's big one, also caught on the Menominee during a separate outing.



For Sale

A 14' low-side Hyde Drift Boat with trailer, graphite oars and guide package. This boat is in very good shape, as is the trailer and all accompanying equipment. Asking \$5000 or best offer.

This would be the perfect boat for floating some of our larger Smallmouth rivers. The boat is in Cazenovia, WI. For more information, call Dennis Graupe at: 608-452-3440.

Our Next Meeting:

Tuesday
September 16th
Mapletree Restaurant
McFarland

North Country Pike

Bob Harrison will present a program on three recent trips to Canada and Alaska to pursue these monster fish.

As always, our meetings start at 7:00 p.m. but we encourage everyone to arrive earlier and join us for dinner too.



Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday, September 16th 7:00 P.M.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland
WSA monthly meeting.
Bob Harrison, "North Country Pike"
- Monday, September 22nd 7:00 P.M.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland
BFF monthly meeting.
Program T.B.A.
- Tuesday, October 21st 7:00 P.M.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland
WSA monthly meeting. DNR biologist Tim Larson on Wisconsin River smallmouth populations between the Dells and Sauk dams.
- Monday, October 27th 7:00 P.M.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland
BFF monthly meeting.
Program T.B.A.
- Tuesday, November 18th 7:00 P.M.
Mapletree Restaurant, McFarland
WSA monthly meeting.
Guide Ron Barefield on Lake Mendota and Wisconsin River smallmouth fishing.