



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

January 8, 2009

All Sport Fishers, Recreational Boaters and Lake Managers

Re: Boat Launch Disinfection Stations

Dear Recreational Users and Lake Managers:

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Fisheries Division (Fisheries Division) is actively managing a number of new fish pathogens to our waters, particularly Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus (VHSv). As part of our effort to manage these pathogens, we have been actively soliciting assistance from our resource users to be part of the effort to slow the spread of these pathogens, as seen from our Fisheries Order 245. So in this context, we are very pleased to support the efforts to establish a voluntary system of boat disinfection stations at boat launches using Virkon Aquatic, a very effective disinfectant that will eliminate VHSv and other pathogens. This is a chemical that Fisheries Division staff uses to disinfect equipment so we are very familiar with it and we know its effectiveness and safety.

The development of these disinfection stations around our state at boat launches will greatly help in our efforts to control VHSv and other pathogens. They will also provide opportunities to educate our boaters and anglers in the proper ways to disinfect and clean their equipment. We applaud the efforts to develop a broad voluntary system of disinfection stations and wish to remind the public that these stations will need to be properly permitted prior to getting them established.

If you have any questions on VHSv, please contact me. If you have questions on permitting for a disinfection station at a boat ramp; please contact your local DNR office for state boat ramps, the appropriate federal agency for boat ramps on federal lands, and local governmental officials for boat ramps operated by local governments.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Whelan
Fish Production Manager
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