

## GLFHC Conference Call

June 5, 2006

### Agenda:

1. VHS Updates - 20 minutes each
  1. OMNR - Lake Ontario - Miller-Dodd
  2. MI DNR - Lake St Clair - Faisal and Whelan
  3. ODW - Lake Erie - Insley
2. Potential Management Implications of VHS - Whelan - 20 minutes
3. GLFHC Actions Needed and VHS Communications - Whelan - 20 minutes
4. American Eel Introduction - Miller Dodd - 20 minutes
5. Gary-Opening remarks
6. Lisa Update

### Attendees:

Gary Whelan  
Andy Noyes  
Darryl Bathel  
John Coll  
Sue Marcquenski  
Greg Wright  
Ken Stark  
John Dettmers  
Allison Niggemyer  
Jim Winton  
Paul Bowser  
Jim Casey  
Geoff Groocock  
Rod Getchell  
Dave Insley  
Lisa Miller-Dodd  
John Lumsden  
Mohamed Faisal  
Brian Souter

### Meeting Minutes:

1. OMNR discontinued use of BOQ WAE
  1. Other sources identified and will be used
  2. Made recommendations that BOQ fish should only be used within basin
  3. Recommended Commercial operations boq fish should be used only w/in basin
  4. Baitfish still screening for heterosporis in boq
  5. Have not rec'd info on mass mortalities from BoQ
  6. Fair number of morts from L St Clair

7. L Ont. Perch samples submitted for VHS
8. Subsequent samples of healthy drum were negative
2. Lumsden-Drum, crappie, smb st clair positive no gross lesions, histo lesions found
  1. As opposed BOQ drum where path was found
  2. St lawrence muskie in freezer to be analyzed
  3. Temps rrranged from 18-32 degrees from 2005 outbreaks
3. Gary update
  1. Muskie confrimed from st clair
  2. 2-3 k fish-too far gone to diagnose
  3. Additionally bg, bullhead, shad, black crappie mortality in canal areas of st clair confirmation for vhs still ongoing
  4. Muskie from 2003 from faisal may be first isolate st clair
  5. L erie-number of dead fish seen in detroit river suspected VHS
4. Ohio-Insley-
  1. Massive mortality in drum -VHS detected
  2. Mortality has since disappeared
  3. Y perch mort is VHS positive
  4. Currently screening healthy fish from L erie
    1. sampled over 300 fish last week
    2. some yp had popeye, gross lesions, necrotic kidney from Sandusky
  5. Wind rows of dead drum were 10 ft wide, 3 ft high along bank
5. Paul Bowser-
  1. SLR-goby mort-VHS confirmed by winton
  2. arondequoit bay vhs positive gobies-big mort
  3. two musky from dec slr positive in may
  4. Trying to get worthwhile samples is difficult
  5. 2005 muskie morts slr were vhs negative, sobria positive
6. Gary-2-3% mort estimated from lsc
7. Gary--Management implications-
  1. No brood collection from infected sources
  2. No transfers from erie or lsc
  3. Fee fishing management
  4. Bait industry-3Kgal minnows collected, unsure what to do
  5. Will increase information to public for educate
8. Ballast water changes poses a concern for transmission through GL
9. Winton-no disease susceptibility testing done to date, lumsden confirmed-grants not funded.
10. Concern that vhs may spread throughout fishing areas in US
11. Sue-should we reapproach trust for grants that were already denied
  1. John-commission's perspective-proably would not do out-of-cycle re-eval becasue of budget situation
  2. Bowser-current grant proposal sent to sea grant
    1. If funded-it would not start until feb 2007
12. Gary-if we did know disease info, what would we do?

1. Winton-surveillance work would id geogr and species that would id management areas/species to target. May id species and areas that can be transferred
2. Sue-survey info may be used to educate public, only can be done with good data. Can't stop spread, but can slow it down.
13. Sue-can we do antibody tests from fish ppulations? Winton-species specific ig must be developed for each species tested
14. Gary will search for other \$\$ sources i.e. AFWA
15. Lisa-DFO asked for risk assessment to prioritize VHS disease issues
16. Sue-can we standardize public message?
  1. Gary-can draw up commons steps
    1. Disinfect boats
    2. Don't transfer fish/water
17. Brian-do we have any sense that public is following guideline?
  1. Sue-wisc has summertime staff at launches to help public
  2. Dettmers-sea grant and MN DNR may have this info.
  3. Gary-can somebody make a draft for committee
    1. Sue-lisa-dave will do-reviewed by 6- 26<sup>conference call</sup>
18. Dave-emerald shiners move throughout GL-bait industry uses heavily and are shipped
  1. Ken simmons has inspected 25 from sandusky-still underway
  2. Bait fish pose big concern, but interstate commerce policy issue will be complicated.
  3. We need more info from upper lakes needed as well as more wild info from lower lakes
    1. Gary-info of this sort would be very inspected
  4. May need to refocus USFWS survey work for VHS testing-lamar and Lacrosse
  5. Gary can take lead on writing recommendation paper for surveillance of vhs in wild fish withing each agency
  6. Lisa-should include heterosporis-also states are financially strapped.
  7. MN-has statue that minnows can not be off loaded into state without inspection data.
    1. Gary-there is a us supreme court ruling from late 70's in Oklahoma
  8. MN statute related to rudd importation
19. Lisa-AMERICAN eel introduction
  1. LO mangt unit postponed elver importation-
  2. As of this fall, viro, 3 yr history will be needed
  3. Now looking into bootlace eels this fall
  4. Will schedule american eel for another conference call
  5. Trying to get better understanding of 'not doing anything'
  6. Getting better understanding of what disease testing needs to be doen
  7. Source-commercial in new brunswick, does minimal testing and ships worldwide
  8. Winton-vhs isolate different between new brunswick and GL, so caution should be taken.
20. Gary-a few items to be drafted from this conference call and gary will foolow up
  1. Will also look for funding options
  2. Winton will still be happy to receive Suspected isolates from GL area.
21. Adjourned