



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY Access via relay - 711

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Subject: Selling frozen dead bait

Dear Wisconsin Bait Dealers:

This letter is directed to Wisconsin bait retailers who sell frozen fish (often smelt or shiners) as bait and is intended to clarify the restrictions on using dead fish as bait in Wisconsin waters and provide you with a sign to inform anglers. Because of the threat of dead bait spreading the fish disease Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), dead fish must be properly preserved before it can be used on waterbodies other than the place which the bait was harvested. Frozen fish can only be used on the waterbody from which they were harvested, but once properly preserved, they can be used anywhere. There are no restrictions on the use of dead bait in Lake Michigan.

It has come to our attention that some bait shops are selling frozen bait with no information for the angler regarding the restricted use of these products. We encourage you to sell only preserved dead bait so as to reduce the likelihood of anglers using dead bait in a prohibited manner and possibly contributing to the spread of VHS. Suggested methods of preservation include storage in alcohol or mineral oil, or drying by packing in a salt/borax mixture for a period of 14 days. More details on [preservation techniques](http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs/vhs_preservation.html) can be found on our website, at (http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs/vhs_preservation.html) including an instructional video and another poster that are helpful for consumers on when and where they can use dead bait.

If you do sell frozen bait we encourage you to inform your customers of these restrictions. On the back of this letter you will find a sign that we are hoping you will post near your frozen bait coolers noting the restrictions and guidelines on where and how dead bait may be used. Please post this information in an obvious place so that customers will be informed of the dead bait restrictions to prevent the spread of VHS. Any questions concerning dead bait, please contact Ted Treska at (608) 267-7659. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in the fight against invasive species.

Mike Staggs
Director
WDNR Bureau of Fisheries Management

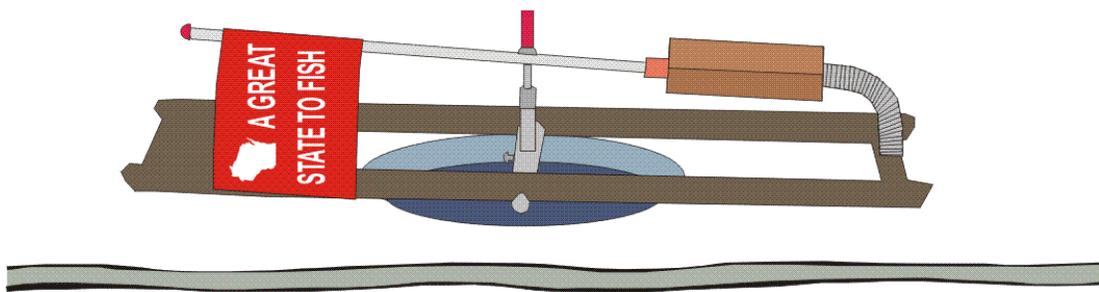
Buying Frozen Fish

for Bait?

Frozen fish purchased for use as bait **MUST** be preserved* unless one of the situations below applies....

	Water where bait will be used		
Type of Bait	Lake Superior	Lake Michigan	Inland waters
Frozen	Only if harvested from Lake Superior	OK, regardless of harvest location	Only if harvested from the same water in which it is used
Preserved*	OK, regardless of harvest location		

*Preservation by a method that does not require refrigeration, for example salting or pickling.



We have additional [information and detailed preservation methods](#) on our website regarding dead bait.