

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION
AND
WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL
“In support of an Indemnification Program for Wisconsin Fish Farmers”**

Whereas Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is a reportable disease internationally, nationally and to the state, is a disease that has recently been found in Wisconsin, with the potential to ravage fish in Wisconsin’s lakes rivers and streams, and

Whereas the disease has only been found in the wild and is not a disease yet found on the farm, and may be transmitted onto the farm from uncontrolled wild vectors, or from infected waters of the state, and

Whereas concern for VHS has prompted state and federal bans and restrictions on fish movement, that have hurt aquaculturists, including commercial fish farmers, therefore there is the strong potential to prohibit expansion and to devastate Wisconsin’s \$12 million aquaculture industry and because of these restrictions and bans, and

Whereas federal and state indemnification programs to compensate for livestock depopulation on farms for public good and safeguarding the food supply were set up to ensure that zoonotic diseases are not transmitted to humans and therefore may not cover VHS and may not cover fish raised for bait or for stocking, and

Whereas agencies may quarantine facilities for long periods of time and/or depopulate fish farms to prevent the further spread of the disease, forcing on them economic hardship or complete loss of their business

Therefore be it Resolved that WAA and WAIAC recommends that Wisconsin’s Indemnification Program be expanded to incorporate the disease VHS, include fish raised for food, bait or stocking and compensate Wisconsin DATCP registered private fish farms in the event of depopulation.

Signed:

Bill West, WAA President

Dave Gollon, WAIAC Board

Date: _____

Date: _____