

Frequently Asked Questions for the Update to the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) Susceptible Species List

From the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Why were these updates made?

Previously, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) followed the 2007 federal order for its list of VHS susceptible species. This federal order was rescinded in 2014 as more states had regulations in place based on the [World Organization for Animal Health \(WOAH\)](#) and [American Fisheries Society \(AFS\) Blue Book](#) standards to manage disease risk. DATCP updated its VHS susceptible species list to align with current [WOAH](#) and [\(AFS\) Blue Book](#) standards.

What species were added to the VHS Susceptible Species list?

The following six species were added:

- Atlantic salmon/Landlocked Atlantic salmon
- Coho salmon
- Fathead minnow
- Lake cisco
- Lake trout
- Rainbow trout x Coho salmon
- Steelhead trout
- Striped bass

The following five species were removed. These species are now recognized as incompletely susceptible to VHS by both the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and American Fisheries Society (AFS) Blue Book

- Burbot
- Channel catfish
- Shorthead redhorse
- Silver redhorse
- Trout-Perch

Is it possible that more species could be added to the VHS susceptible list?

Yes, the current list of VHS susceptible species is subject to change as many species are likely susceptible to infection with VHS but have not been tested or identified in natural infections. Per [ATCP 10.65](#), DATCP will update the VHS-susceptible species as they change.

I have some species that fall under the incomplete evidence for susceptibility. Will they require VHS testing?

DATCP will not require species with incomplete VHS-susceptibility to undergo routine VHS testing based on current knowledge. DATCP may require future testing of these species based on updated scientific evidence or in the face of changing risk factors.

When do these changes take effect?

The changes go into effect on July 16, 2026.

How will the changes be implemented?

If a Type 2 fish farm is harvesting a VHS-susceptible species from the wild, they will now have to register as a Type 3 fish farm and follow VHS testing requirements for movements.

Type 2 fish farmers that have any of the VHS-susceptible species that were harvested from the wild will need to notify DATCP so we can change the license type from Type 2 to Type 3.

If I have to go from a Type 2 to a Type 3 fish farm, am I going to have to pay an extra fee?

No, there will be no change in fees to go from a Type 2 to Type 3 fish farm.

I already completed testing and had my Fish Health Certificate issued, do I now need to do testing again?

No, any current Fish Health Certificates (FHCs) will be grandfathered in. Effective immediately, FHCs will need to align with the new testing requirements.

If you have any questions or concerns that are not addressed above, please submit them using the DATCP [FHC/VHS Question/Comment form](#).

(Revised July 2026)