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News Release

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Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia update: Further relaxation of fish movement restrictions in the Yorkshire Ouse catchment

Tests results on farms on the Aire, Derwent and the Wharfe river systems have proved negative and it is now possible to move live fish to other fish farms located on the same river system.

Currently, to avoid any possible contamination of other river systems, no movements of live fish are being allowed between fish farms on different river systems within the Ouse catchment until the epidemiological investigation is completed.

Further results for other farms in the Ouse catchment area are expected shortly. Once the final set of test results have been confirmed the restrictions on additional types of fish movements will be reconsidered.

Any fish movements are considered on application to the Fish Health Inspectorate.

The live fish movement restriction does not apply to the movement of ornamental fish to or from pet shops and aquaria.

VHS has no implications for human health.

Notes to editors

Anyone wishing to move live fish, to, from or within the affected area, should apply in writing to the Fish Health Inspectorate at Cefas, Weymouth. Defra will be contacting all fish farmers in the area outlining the types of live fish movements that may be considered.

The Fish Health Inspectorate are also able to provide advice on biosecurity requirements, both on farm and for fish transportation purposes.

Appropriate consents are also needed from the Environment Agency, for the introduction of live fish into waters other than fish farms.

A copy of the movement application form VHSM1 and guidance for its completion, is available at: www.efishbusiness.co.uk

or by telephone from the Fish Health Inspectorate on 01305 206673

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