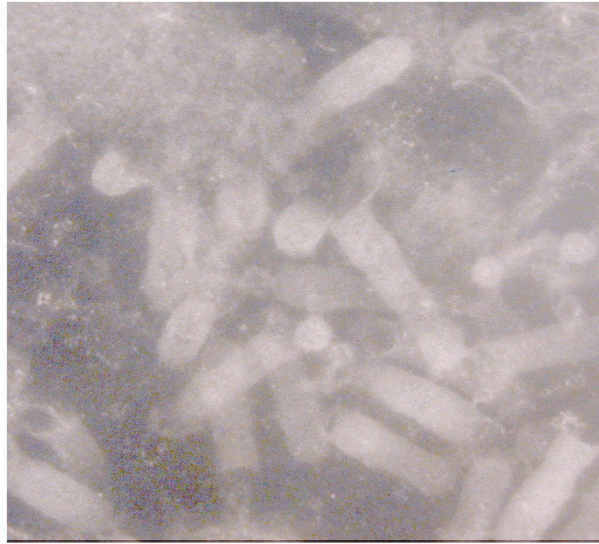




## Fish Health Fact Sheet



Electron micrograph of the bullet shaped virus

## Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus VHSV

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia is a viral disease that infects salmon and trout in Europe, Japan, and North America. Fish from both freshwater and marine environments can become infected, and at least 50 species are known to be susceptible to the virus. The virus does not affect humans. Two types of this virus occur in North America. Type IVb occurs around the Great Lakes region and further east, and is responsible for massive fish die-offs of infected fish. Type IVa occurs in the Pacific Northwest and is considered less virulent though it is responsible for large fish kills in Alaska and Canada, affecting herring, anchovies, mackerel, and Atlantic salmon. Type IVa, which has been detected in two marine species in Oregon waters, is less virulent to Pacific salmon and has not caused documented loss in naturally reared populations or hatchery salmonids. There is no treatment or cure for VHS. Because Type IVb appears to be extremely virulent and has not yet been found in the Pacific Northwest, game and food fish species imported into Oregon are carefully examined to prevent its introduction into the state. Fish from all of Oregon's hatcheries are also routinely monitored for the virus.

