



Black Crappie Sarcoma



Clinical Signs:

- Raised, red sores on the external surface of black crappie (mid-body, operculum, fins)
- Sores are often fragile and bloody and can invade deep into the muscle, affecting the fillet

Background:

- Documented since the 1980's in Madison Lakes and in the northwest region of the state
- Cases have been reported in large numbers in Polk and Barron, small numbers in Adams, Pierce, and St. Croix counties, and suspected in Columbia, Winnebago, Wood, and Shawano counties
- No known reports of the condition outside of Wisconsin
- Prevalence appears to range between 1-2% to as high as 20-30% of black crappies in a given lake at a given time

Cause:

- Current test results suggest an underlying virus, but research is ongoing.
- Other diseases may have similar looking lesions, testing is needed to diagnose

What to do with a diseased fish:

- **Eating diseased fish is not recommended**, as it is unknown if this disease can affect humans
- WDNR recommends to humanely euthanize fish and dispose of the carcass in household waste or by burying it away from water. **Fish still counts towards daily bag limit.**
- Wash, disinfect, and dry equipment before using in a different body of water
- Do not move black crappie from one body of water to another

Follow up:

- Isolating the cause is difficult and expensive making definitive results likely years away
- Wisconsin DNR continues to actively investigate this disease and will keep the public updated with any new discoveries