



**OCHIG (fisher), NIGIG (otter)
AND GIDAGAA-BIZHIW (bobcat)
HARVESTS DURING 2012 - 2013
IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES
IN MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN**

by

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OCHIG (fisher), NIGIG (otter) AND GIDAGAA-BIZHIW (bobcat) HARVESTS DURING 2012 - 2013 IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES IN MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the 2012 - 2013 off-reservation treaty trapping seasons for ochig (fishers), nigig (otters) and gidagaa-bizhiw (bobcats) in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin (Figure 1). Hunters and trappers were members of the six Wisconsin Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Lac Vieux Desert Band in Michigan and the Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe and Fond du Lac band (harvesting in Wisconsin) (Minnesota). Harvests by Fond du Lac trappers in the Minnesota 1854 ceded territory were reported by Schrage (2013) and are not included in totals in this report.

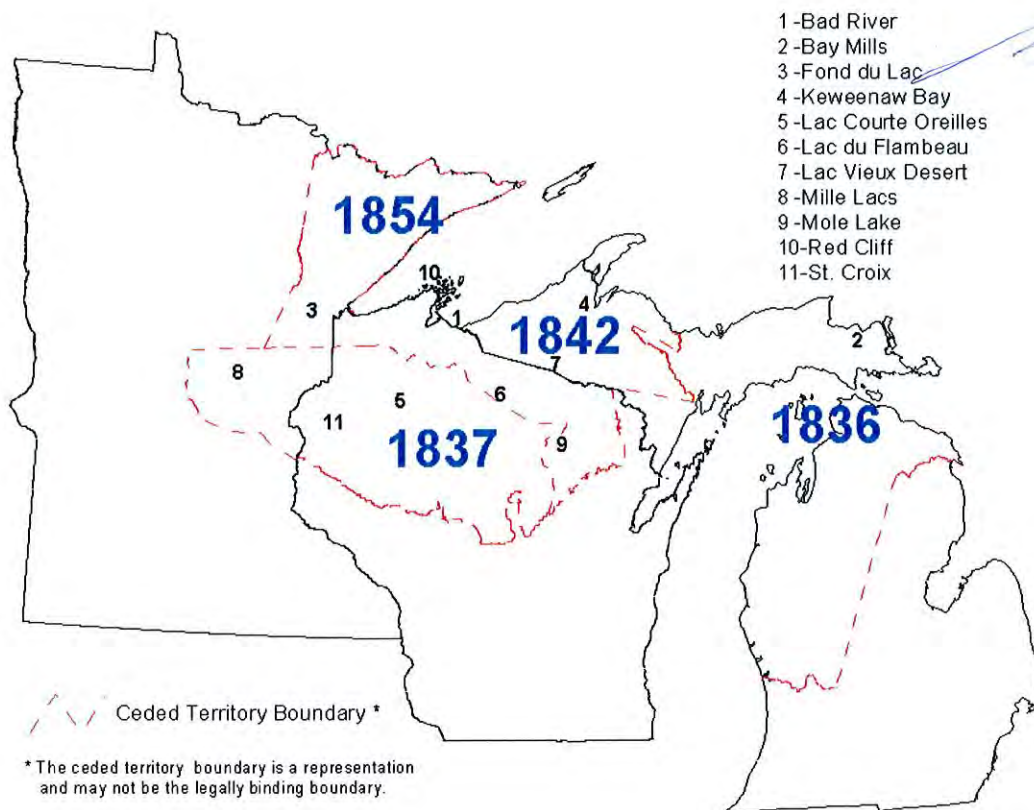


Figure 1. Location of GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Regulations and Annual Summary

Wisconsin

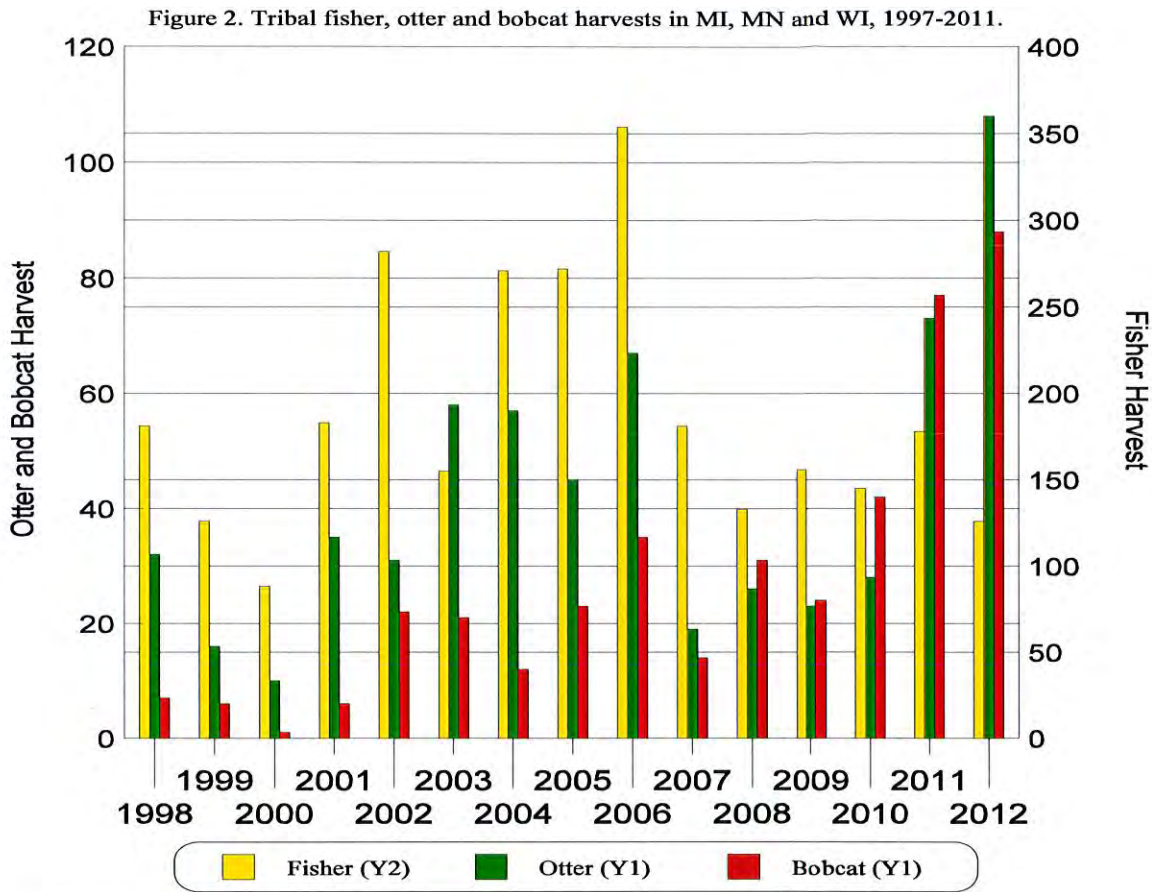
The trapping season began on October 1 for otters and bobcats and on November 1 for fishers. The bobcat hunting season began on September 4. Harvest records did not distinguish between bobcats trapped or shot. All seasons ended on March 31. Trappers (and hunters for bobcats) were required to obtain carcass tags for each species. Upon harvest the trapper or hunter was required to tag the animal and register it at a tribal registration station by 5:00 pm of the third working day after harvest.

Fisher, otter and bobcat harvests were regulated according to a threshold system. As long as tribal harvest remained below 15% of the state harvest, there was no need for a tribal quota. In 2012-2013 tribal quotas were required for fishers in zones A and B and for bobcats.

In the past a general permit was issued to people interested in trapping. Starting in 2011, the on-line permit system required permits for each species harvested. Thus, the number of trappers/hunters and the number of successful trappers/hunters will be reported in each species section and not Table 1 as in the past. Otter and bobcat harvests increased from the 2011 - 2012 levels (Table 1 and Figure 2).

Table 1. Number of licensed trappers and numbers of fishers, otters, and bobcats harvested by tribal members in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin during off-reservation treaty trapping seasons from 1998 - 99 through 2012 - 2013.

Season	Licensed Trappers	Fisher Harvest	Otter Harvest	Bobcat Harvest
1998-1999	1,570	181	32	7
1999 - 2000	1,539	126	16	6
2000 - 2001	1,125	88	10	1
2001 - 2002	1,065	182	35	6
2002 - 2003	1,013	282	31	22
2003 - 2004	1,047	155	58	21
2004 - 2005	943	271	57	12
2005 - 2006	1,467	272	45	23
2006 - 2007	1,265	354	65	35
2007 - 2008	1,032	181	19	14
2008 - 2009	1,241	133	26	31
2009 - 2010	1,450	156	23	24
2010 - 2011	758	145	28	42
2011 - 2012	see text	178	73	77
2012 - 2013	see text	126	112	89



Minnesota

The 2012 - 2013 treaty trapping seasons in the Minnesota (MN) 1837 ceded territory were concurrent with those in Wisconsin. In 2012 - 2013 there were no otters, bobcats or martens registered at the Mille Lacs registration station or at the Fond du Lac station (Schrage 2013) for the 1837 ceded territory. There were 3 fishers registered from MN at FDL.

Michigan

The 2012-2013 treaty trapping seasons in Michigan were the same as for Wisconsin and Minnesota. There were 3 otters and 1 bobcat harvested in Michigan and registered at the LVD registration station.

CITES Program

In 2010 GLIFWC received authority to operate a furbearer export program on behalf of its member tribes (except for Fond du Lac) related to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) from the Division of Management Authority of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This program requires that all otters and bobcats that are to be exported be registered and tagged using a CITES tag. Those otters and bobcats not exported, but rather used for personal purposes (e.g. ceremonies) were to be registered but did not require a CITES tag. A unique feature of this program is that it applies to both on reservation as well as off reservation harvests. Tables are provided in the otter (Table 6) and bobcat (Table 10) sections showing the CITES tagging information.

FISHER HARVEST

Wisconsin

The off-reservation treaty fisher season began on November 1, 2012 and extended to March 31, 2013. During this 151 day period a total of 123 fishers were harvested off-reservation (Table 2a). This represented a decline of 55 fishers from the 2011 - 2012 harvest (178) (Gilbert 2012). Most fishers were registered at St. Croix followed by LCO.

Table 2a. Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest as reported by registration station for the 2012 - 2013 season.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Unknown	Totals
Bad River	0	0	0	0
Fond du Lac	4	3	0	7
Lac Courte Oreilles	16	18	0	34
Lac du Flambeau	2	1	0	3
Mille Lacs	0	0	1	1
Mole Lake	0	1	1	2
Red Cliff	0	0	0	0
St. Croix	36	35	0	71
In Field Registration	2	0	0	2
Unknown	0	0	3	3
Totals	60	58	5	123

Minnesota

There were 3 fishers harvested by tribal members in the Minnesota 1837 ceded territory which were registered at FDL. These 3 fishers were taken from deer permit area 159 in Pine County.

Michigan

There were no fishers registered from Michigan.

There were 178 tribal members who obtained fisher trapping permits during the 2012 - 2013 trapping season (Table 2b). Red Cliff had the most trappers (77) followed by LCO (48). LCO had the most successful trappers (10) with the remaining 10 successful trappers being distributed among 5 of the tribes.

Table 2b. Number of fisher trappers and successful trappers during the 2012 - 2013 trapping season.

Tribe of Enrollment	Fisher Trappers	Successful Trappers	Percent Successful
Bad River	28	1	4%
Lac Courte Oreilles	48	10	21%
Lac du Flambeau	8	3	38%
Mille Lacs	3	2	67%
Mole Lake	7	1	14%
Red Cliff	77	3	4%
St. Croix	7	0	0%
Totals	178	20	11%

Tribal trappers in Wisconsin harvested fisher in 5 of the 6 fisher trapping zones (Table 3). Tribal members harvested 74 fishers in Zone A (with a quota of 68), 39 fishers in Zone B (with a quota of 40), and only a few in the other 3 zones (with no quotas). Tribal harvest was closed early in zones A and B when the tribal quota was met, or nearly so.

Table 3. Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest and quota levels reported by deer management unit (DMU) and fisher zone for the 2012 - 2013 season in Wisconsin.

FISHER	DMU	TRIBAL	MALE	FEMALE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
A	3	68	2	0	0	2
	4		3	2	0	5
	8		4	5	0	9
	9		0	1	0	1
	10		7	9	0	16
	11		16	11	1	28
	12		1	2	0	3
	15		5	3	0	8
	17		0	2	0	2
	closed 1/9/13		SUBTOTAL	68	38	35
B	13	40	3	7	0	10
	18		9	7	0	16
	23		4	6	0	10
	25		1	0	0	1
	28		1	0	0	1
	29A		0	1	0	1
	closed 2/8/13		SUBTOTAL	40	18	21
C	29B	threshold	1	0	0	1
	37		1	0	0	1
	SUBTOTAL		2	0	0	2
D	44	threshold	0	0	1	1
	46		0	1	0	1
	SUBTOTAL		0	1	1	2
E	58	threshold	2	1	0	3
	SUBTOTAL		2	1	0	3
F	SUBTOTAL	threshold	0	0	0	0
Unknown			0	0	3	3
TOTAL		108	60	58	5	123

Tribal harvest of fisher in Wisconsin was distributed among 14 counties (Table 4) an increase of 2 counties from 2011 - 2012. In the 2012 - 2013 season the greatest number of fishers was harvested in Burnett county, followed by Sawyer county.

Table 4. Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest totals reported by county for the 2012 - 2013 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Unknown	Totals
Bayfield	2	1	0	3
Burnett	31	28	1	60
Chippewa	3	3	0	6
Clark	0	1	0	1
Douglas	3	2	0	5
Eau Claire	2	0	0	2
Forest	0	0	1	1
Marathon	0	1	0	1
Price	1	1	0	2
Rusk	6	8	0	14
Sawyer	8	10	0	18
St. Croix	1	0	0	1
Vilas	1	0	0	1
Washburn	2	3	0	5
Unknown	0	0	3	3
Totals	60	58	5	123

OTTER HARVEST

Wisconsin

One hundred nine (109) otters were harvested off-reservation in Wisconsin during the 2012 - 2013 trapping season (Tables 5a, 6 and 7), which ran concurrent with the fisher trapping season. This harvest represented an increase of 36 otters from 2011 - 2012 (73) (Gilbert 2012). Most otters were registered at St. Croix.

Table 5a. Off-reservation treaty otter harvest as reported by registration station for the 2012 - 2013 season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Unknown	Totals
Bad River	0	0	0	0
Fond du Lac	9	2	0	11
Lac Courte Oreilles	7	6	1	14
Lac du Flambeau	0	3	2	5
Mille Lacs	0	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	2	0	3
Red Cliff	0	0	0	0
St Croix	36	31	0	67
Warden Registration	5	3	0	8
Unknown	0	1	0	1
Totals	58	48	3	109

Michigan

Three otters were registered from Michigan. Two were registered at the LVD station and 1 was registered in the field by GLIFWC wardens. All were registered from Gogebic County.

Minnesota

There were no otters registered as taken from Minnesota.

There were 120 tribal members who obtained otter trapping tags with most being from Red Cliff (45) followed by LCO (31) (Table 5b). Twenty two otter trappers were successful with most (7) being from Red Cliff and LCO.

Table 5b. The number of otter trappers and successful otter trappers during the 2012 - 2013 otter trapping season.

Tribe of Enrollment	Otter Trappers	Successful Trappers	Percent Successful
Bad River	18	1	6%
Lac Courte Oreilles	31	7	23%
Lac du Flambeau	9	2	22%
Lac Vieux Desert	3	2	67%
Mille Lacs	4	2	50%
Mole Lake	4	1	25%
Red Cliff	45	7	16%
St. Croix	6	0	0%
Totals	120	22	18%

There were 63 of 112 otters registered with the Tribal CITES program in the 2012 - 2013 harvest season (Table 6). The 26 otters harvested from off-reservation represents 23% of the harvest. There were 37 otters harvested on reservation which were tagged with CITES tags by GLIFWC wardens (included in this total but not elsewhere in this report).

Table 6. Summary of otters registered with the Tribal CITES program for the 2012- 2013 harvest season.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Unknown	Totals
Bad River	0	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	22	9	1	32
Lac du Flambeau	0	4	4	8
Lac Vieux Desert	1	0	0	1
Mille Lacs	0	0	0	0
Mole Lake	0	2	0	2
Red Cliff	14	5	0	19
St. Croix	1	0	0	1
Warden Registration	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	20	5	63

Table 7. Off-reservation treaty otter harvest reported by deer management unit for the 2012 - 2013 season in Wisconsin.

Deer Management Unit	Males	Females	Unknown	Totals
3	1	2	0	3
4	9	2	0	11
8	0	3	0	3
9	1	1	0	2
10	8	5	0	13
11	23	18	0	41
13	6	4	0	10
15	1	1	0	2
17	2	0	0	2
18	2	6	0	8
25	1	1	0	2
28	1	0	0	1
29B	0	2	2	4
31	0	1	0	1
43	0	2	0	2
46	1	0	0	1
Unknown	2	0	1	3
Totals	58	48	3	109

Table 8. Off-reservation treaty otter harvest as reported by county for the 2012 - 2013 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Unknown	Totals
Bayfield	1	2	0	3
Burnett	31	27	0	58
Douglas	12	3	0	15
Forest	0	2	0	2
Iron	1	2	2	5
Marathon	1	0	0	1
Oneida	0	1	0	1
Rusk	1	4	0	5
Sawyer	10	7	1	18
Washburn	1	0	0	1
Total	58	48	3	109

BOBCAT HARVEST

Wisconsin

The bobcat hunting season opened on September 4, 2012 while the bobcat trapping season opened on October 1, 2012. Both seasons closed on March 31, 2013. Harvest results are presented for both seasons combined because method of harvest was not collected at registration. There were 88 bobcats harvested during the 2012 - 2013 off-reservation treaty harvest seasons (Tables 9a, 10 and 11). This was an increase of 11 bobcats from the 2011 - 2012 off-reservation bobcat harvest in Wisconsin (77) (Gilbert 2012).

Table 9a. Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest as reported by registration station for the 2012 - 2013 season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Total
Bad River	0	0	0
Fond du Lac	26	18	44
Lac Courte Oreilles	10	9	19
Lac du Flambeau	4	5	9
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	2	1	3
Red Cliff	0	0	0
St. Croix	5	4	9
Warden Registration	1	2	3
Unknown	0	1	1
Total	48	40	88

Michigan

There was one female bobcat registered as harvested in Gogebic County, Michigan and registered at the LVD registration station.

Minnesota

No bobcats were harvested in the 1837 Minnesota ceded territory.

There were 463 tribal members who obtained bobcat harvesting permits during the 2012 - 2013 bobcat season and 32 (7%) of these members were successful (Table 9b). Most bobcat hunter/trappers were from LCO followed by Red Cliff. Most successful hunter/trappers came from LCO.

Table 9b. The number of bobcat hunter/trappers and the number of successful bobcat hunter/trappers during the 2012 - 2013 bobcat seasons.

Tribe of Enrollment	Bobcat Hunter/Trappers	Successful Hunter/Trappers	Percent Successful
Bad River	64	3	5%
Fond du Lac	2	0	0%
Lac Courte Oreilles	244	16	7%
Lac du Flambeau	14	3	21%
Lac Vieux Desert	2	1	50%
Mille Lacs	2	0	0%
Mole Lake	7	2	29%
Red Cliff	118	7	6%
St. Croix	10	0	0%
Totals	463	32	7%

There were 85 bobcats tagged with Tribal CITES tags in 2012 - 2013 (Table 10). Of these 30 (13 females, 17 males) were harvested on-reservation and the remainder (55) were harvested off-reservation.

Table 10. Summary of bobcats registered with the Tribal CITES program for the 2011 - 2012 harvest season.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Total
Bad River	4	9	13
Lac Courte Oreilles	9	11	20
Lac du Flambeau	3	2	5
Lac Vieux Desert	0	1	1
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	1	2
Red Cliff	25	19	44
St. Croix	0	0	0
In Field	0	0	0
Total	42	43	85

Table 11. Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest reported by deer management unit for the 2012 - 2013 season in Wisconsin.

Deer Management Unit	Males	Females	Total
1	6	2	8
2	1	1	2
3	0	2	2
4	20	14	34
5	0	1	1
8	1	3	4
9	1	0	1
10	0	3	3
11	2	1	3
12	0	1	1
13	4	1	5
18	5	3	8
19	2	1	3
25	0	1	1
28	0	1	1
30	1	0	1
31	2	4	6
33	1	0	1
43	1	1	2
Unknown	1	0	1
Total	48	40	88

Table 12. Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest as reported by county for the 2012 - 2013 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Total
Bayfield	1	3	4
Burnett	2	3	5
Douglas	27	18	45
Forest	1	1	2
Iron	1	0	1
Marathon	1	0	1
Oneida	2	4	6
Price	1	0	1
Rusk	0	1	1
Sawyer	11	5	16
Vilas	1	0	1
Washburn	1	4	5
Totals	49	39	88

Literature Cited

Schrage, M. 2013. 2013 Wildlife harvest record for the Fond du Lac Reservation and ceded territories. Fond du Lac Resource Management Division, Cloquet MN 12 pp.

Gilbert, J. H. 2012. Ochig (fisher), nigig (otter) and gidagaa-bizhew (bobcat) harvests during 2011 - 2012 in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Admin. Report 12 - 14 (ver 2). Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Odanah WI. 19 pp.