Results of the 1997 Waawaashkeshi (Deer) and Makwa (Bear) Hunting Seasons in the Ceded Territories of Michigan

by
Miles Falck
Wildlife Biologist

Administrative Report 98-5
April 1998

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
Biological Services Division
P.O. Box 9
Odanah, WI 54861
(715) 682-6619
Results of the 1997 Waawaashkeshi (Deer) and Makwa (Bear) Hunting Seasons in the Ceded Territories of Michigan

Introduction

This report summarizes the 1997 tribal harvest of waawaashkeshi (deer) and makwa (bear) on lands in Michigan that were ceded to the United States by the Lake Superior Ojibwa in the treaties of 1836 and 1842 (Fig. 1). The majority of hunters were members of 3 Lake Superior bands with reservations in the upper peninsula (UP): Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC), Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC), and the Lac Vieux Desert Band (LVD) (see Fig. 1). However, harvest in the UP by other tribes signatory to the treaty of 1842 is also reported.

DEER HUNTING

Regulations

Tribal hunters within Michigan were regulated by distinct and specific tribal regulations for the 1997 season. Table 1 summarizes the major features of each tribe’s deer hunting regulations.

Table 1. Tribal deer hunting season dates and bag limits for GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribe</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Antlerless Bag Limit</th>
<th>Season Bag Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMIC</td>
<td>1 Aug - 1 Jan</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KBIC</td>
<td>1 Sep - 31 Dec</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVD</td>
<td>2 Sep - 31 Dec</td>
<td>annual quota</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bay Mills tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the BMIC Conservation Code. All members hunting off-reservation were required to carry a valid hunting permit issued by the tribal conservation department good for either antlerless or antlered deer on public lands within the 1836 treaty boundaries. The deer hunting season opened on August 1st and closed on January 1st. Hunting hours were from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Tribal members were not required to register deer taken within the 1836 treaty area. There was no commercial harvest of deer but harvest for subsistences use was unlimited.
Figure 1. Location of GLIFWC member tribes and ceded territory boundaries in Michigan.
Keweenaw Bay tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the KBIC Tribal Code. The deer hunting season opened on September 1st and closed on December 31st. Tribal hunters were required to possess a valid tribal hunting and fishing card that allowed members to hunt on reservation lands and public lands off-reservation throughout the 1842 treaty area. Initially 2 deer tags good for either antlerless or antlered deer were issued. Two additional tags could be obtained after registering the first 2 deer for a maximum of 4 deer during the season. All deer were required to be registered with the KBIC Conservation/Law Enforcement Program within 7 days of harvest.

Lac Vieux Desert tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the LVD Off-Reservation Conservation Code. The deer hunting season opened on the day after Labor Day and closed on December 31st. Hunting hours were ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Tribal hunters were required to possess a valid off-reservation natural resources harvesting permit and were issued 2 carcass tags at a time. The tribe’s governing body establishes bag limits and antlerless quotas annually. Antlerless permits were required to harvest antlerless deer. All deer harvested were required to be tagged and registered at a tribal registration station by 5 p.m. of the next working day.

Methods

1836 Ceded Territory.-A telephone survey (Appendix A) was used to estimate the number of deer harvested in the 1836 treaty ceded territory (Falck 1998). Permit holders were sorted by phone number and every third permitee with a phone number listed was selected from a random starting point. A total of 38 (26%) permitees were contacted during the survey. Total harvest was estimated by calculating the mean number of deer harvested per permit from the phone sample and multiplying it by the total number of permits issued. The antlerless ratio, and harvest by county and month were calculated similarly.

1842 Ceded Territory.-Harvest data for the 1842 ceded territory in the UP were obtained from tribal registration stations where information was collected on each deer registered. Information included county and date of harvest, and whether or not the deer was antlered. Data from the KBIC registration station did not differentiate between on and off-reservation harvest.

Results

The total tribal deer harvest in Michigan was estimated at 209 deer (69% antlerless)(Table 2). A total of 132 deer (59% antlerless) were registered in the 1842 portion of the UP and total harvest for the 1836 portion of the UP was estimated to be 77 deer (86% antlerless). Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of harvest by county for
the ceded territories of Michigan, although the ceded portion of the lower peninsula was treated as 1 unit.

Bay Mills tribal members accounted for all deer harvested in the 1836 ceded territory. Keweenaw Bay and Lac Vieux Desert members accounted for the majority of harvest in the 1842 portion of the UP, although a few members from other tribes also contributed to the harvest (Table 2). Harvest was greatest during October and November (Fig. 3).

**Table 2.** Deer harvest by tribe for ceded territories in Michigan, 1997.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribe</th>
<th>Treaty Area</th>
<th>Antlered</th>
<th>Antlerless</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bad River</td>
<td>1842</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay Mills Indian Community</td>
<td>1836</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keweenaw Bay Indian Community</td>
<td>1842</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lac Courte Oreilles</td>
<td>1842</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lac du Flambeau</td>
<td>1842</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lac Vieux Desert</td>
<td>1842</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>1842</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 2. Distribution of tribal deer harvest in Michigan, 1997.
Figure 3. Tribal deer harvest by month in Upper Michigan, 1997.
Bear Hunting

Regulations

As with deer hunting, distinct tribal regulations governed tribal bear harvest in Michigan. Table 3 summarizes the major features of each tribe’s bear hunting regulations.

Table 3. Tribal bear hunting season dates and bag limits for GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribe</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMIC</td>
<td>1 Apr - 30 Jun, 1 Sep - 30 Nov</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KBIC</td>
<td>1 Sep - 31 Dec</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVD</td>
<td>2 Sep - 31 Dec</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bay Mills tribal members hunted under the regulations outlined in the BMIC Conservation Code. All members hunting off-reservation were required to carry a valid hunting permit issued by the tribal conservation department. The open season for bear ran from 1 April - 30 June and from 1 September - 30 November. Registration was not required for harvested bears and there was no bag limit. Unlawful hunting methods included harvesting or molesting a bear in its den as well as harvesting a cub or a sow with cubs. Bait was restricted to organic matter placed on the ground.

Keweenaw Bay tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the KBIC Tribal Code. As per KBIC deer hunting regulations, the possession of a valid tribal hunting and fishing card allowed tribal members to hunt on reservation lands and public lands off-reservation throughout the 1842 treaty area. The open season for bear ran from 1 September - 31 December. Registration was required for all harvested bear and the bag limit was 1 per season. Unlawful methods included the use of dogs, snares, or traps.

Lac Vieux Desert tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the LVD Off-Reservation Conservation Code. The open season ran from the day after Labor Day - 31 October. There was no bag limit and registration was required for all bear harvested.
Methods

1836 Ceded Territory.-A telephone survey (Appendix B) was used (as described above) to estimate the number of bear harvested. A total of 42 (34%) permitees were contacted during the survey.

1842 Ceded Territory.-Harvest data for the 1842 portion of the UP were obtained from tribal registration stations where information was collected on each bear registered. Information included sex, county, and date of harvest. Data from the KBIC registration station did not differentiate between on and off-reservation harvest.

Results

A total of 6 bear were harvested in the upper peninsula of Michigan in 1997 (Table 4). The entire harvest was taken from the 1842 portion of the UP by members of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Lac Vieux Desert Band. Of the 6 bear harvested, Keweenaw Bay tribal members harvested 5 and Lac Vieux Desert members harvested 1.

Table 4. Number of bear harvested by sex and county during the 1997 tribal bear season in Michigan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Boar</th>
<th>Sow</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baraga</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gogebic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Ken Gebhardt, Bay Mills fisheries biologist, Jeanne Bouschor, Keweenaw Bay license clerk, and John Denomie, GLIFWC wildlife technician for compiling these results. Jon Gilbert, GLIFWC Wildlife Section Leader, and Neil Kmiecik, GLIFWC Biological Services Director, provided editorial comments.

Literature Cited

Tribal ID number: ______________

Did you hunt DEER OFF-RESERVATION with a tribal permit during the 1997 tribal deer season?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

In which county or counties did you hunt? (check all that apply)
☐ Chippewa  ☐ Mackinac  ☐ Luce  ☐ Other: __________________

How many deer did you harvest? ______ (fill in table)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Deer</th>
<th>Date of Harvest</th>
<th>County of Harvest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antlered</td>
<td>Antlerless</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many days did you hunt?
☐ 1-3  ☐ 4-6  ☐ 7-9  ☐ 10-12  ☐ 13-16  ☐ 16+

What is your preferred hunting method?
☐ Baiting  ☐ Driving  ☐ Hunting from stand  ☐ Stalking on foot  ☐ Other: ______________

Do you have any suggestions or comments on deer hunting regulations or management?

Did you purchase a state deer hunting license for the 1997 deer season?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, which carcass tag did you use on your deer? ☐ Tribal  ☐ State

Were you contacted by state wardens? ☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, please describe your encounter:
Tribal ID number: ____________

Did you hunt BEAR OFF-RESERVATION with a tribal permit during the 1997 tribal bear season?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

In which county or counties did you hunt? (check all that apply)

☐ Chippewa  ☐ Mackinac  ☐ Luce  ☐ Other: ______________________

How many bears did you harvest? _______ (fill in table)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Bear</th>
<th>Date of Harvest</th>
<th>County of Harvest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many days did you hunt?

☐ 1-3  ☐ 4-6  ☐ 7-9  ☐ 10-12  ☐ 13-16  ☐ 16+

What is your preferred hunting method?

☐ Baiting  ☐ Dogs  ☐ Hunting from stand  ☐ Other: _________

Do you have any suggestions or comments on bear hunting regulations or management?

Did you purchase a state bear hunting license for the 1997 bear season?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, which carcass tag did you use on your bear? ☐ Tribal  ☐ State

Were you contacted by state wardens?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, please describe your encounter: