

## **2019 MIZISE (TURKEY) HARVEST in the WISCONSIN and MINNESOTA 1837 and 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES**

### **BACKGROUND**

The hunting of mizise (turkeys) in the Wisconsin and Minnesota ceded territories has been a small but regular activity since the reaffirmation of off-reservation harvesting under the *Voigt* and *Mille Lacs* decisions. Once extirpated from the region, mizise have again become established throughout most of the Wisconsin and Minnesota ceded territories, and all of the Wisconsin and Minnesota ceded territories are now included in mizise management zones. This memo summarizes the 2019 mizise harvest; additional background discussion and harvest information for the 1994-2007 period can be found in David, 2008, and harvest memos done for individual years from 2008-2018.

### **WISCONSIN**

About 95% of the Wisconsin/Minnesota ceded territory mizise harvest since the re-affirmation of off-reservation treaty rights has taken place in Wisconsin. Since 1994, a total of 574 turkeys have been harvested in the state by tribal members exercising off-reservation, treaty-reserved rights.

#### **Regulations**

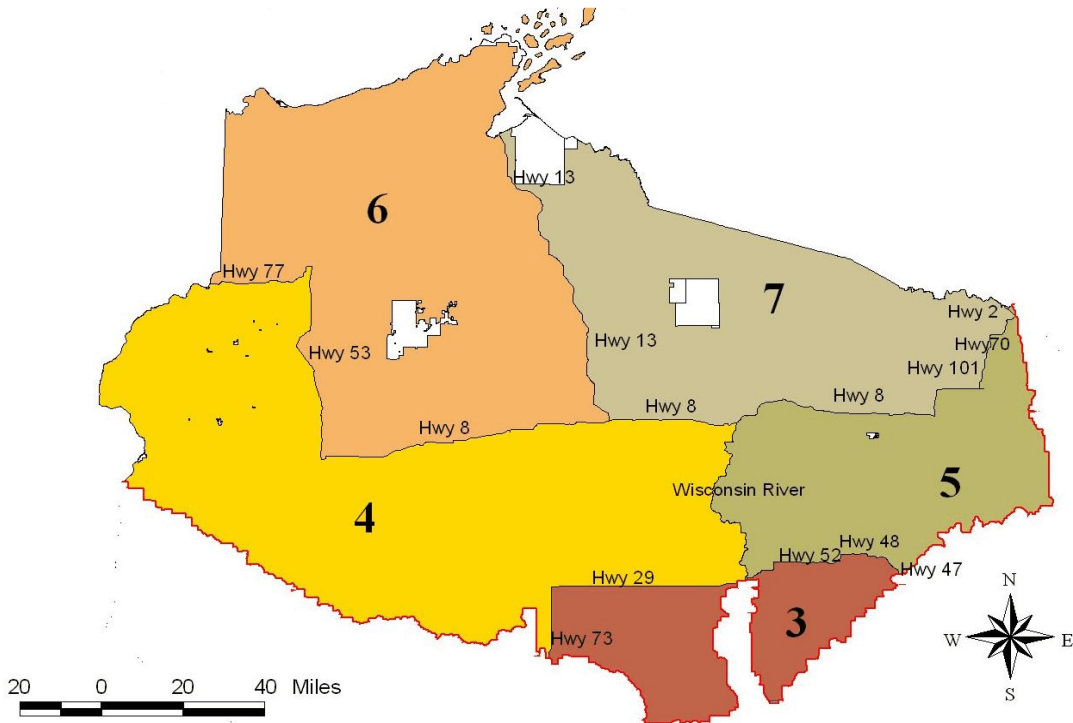
The spring season begins the Wednesday nearest April 13, and runs for 42 consecutive days. The fall season runs from the day after Labor Day to December 31. The daily bag limit was 3. Carcass tags were not required, but all birds harvested had to be registered by phone, on-line, or in-person within 3 working days of harvest, with most harvesters now using the phone-in option. Complete mizise harvest regulations are included in each tribe's off-reservation model code. Summary regulations can be found under the "Harvest Regulations" tab at [www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org).

In past years, hunters reported their harvest by Mizise Management Zone. There were five zones in the ceded territory (numbered 3-7) which paralleled zones used by the State of Wisconsin (Figure 1). In 2019, tribal members began reporting their harvest by smaller Tribal Wildlife Management Units, and county. In most instances, these Management Units are subsections of the previously used Management Zones. Thus, to be consistent with previous harvest memos, and to allow comparisons of state and tribal harvest by zone, the tribal harvest reported by Wildlife Management Unit was converted to Turkey Management Zone for discussion in this memo.

#### **Harvest**

A total of 43 birds were registered, including 28 in the spring season and 15 in the fall (Table 1). At least 1 bird was harvested from 4 of the 5 management zones in the Wisconsin ceded territory, with most of the harvest (24 birds) coming from zone 6. Males accounted for 77% (33 of 43) of the harvest, spring and fall seasons combined.

Total harvest in 2019 was up slightly from 2018 (Figure 2). Until 2014, most of the Wisconsin tribal harvest occurred in the fall, but since then, nearly 70% of the harvest has occurred during the spring seasons. Wisconsin ceded territory mizise harvest has exceeded 50 birds only one year since off-reservation rights have been re-affirmed, and remains biologically insignificant.



The boundaries depicted on this map are representations and not intended to be legally binding.

Figure 1. Wisconsin ceded territory mizise management zones. (Note that these zones differ from the Tribal Wildlife Management Units which tribal members now use to report harvest.)

Table 1. Wisconsin off-reservation, ceded territory mizise harvest in 2019, by Mizise Management Zone.									
Season	Sex	Mizise Management Zone					Sex Total	Season Total	Year Total
		3	4	5	6	7			
Spring	Male			10	15	2	27	28	43
	Female				1		1		
Fall	Male		1	1	3	1	6	15	
	Female		2		5	2	9		
Zone Total			3	11	24	5			

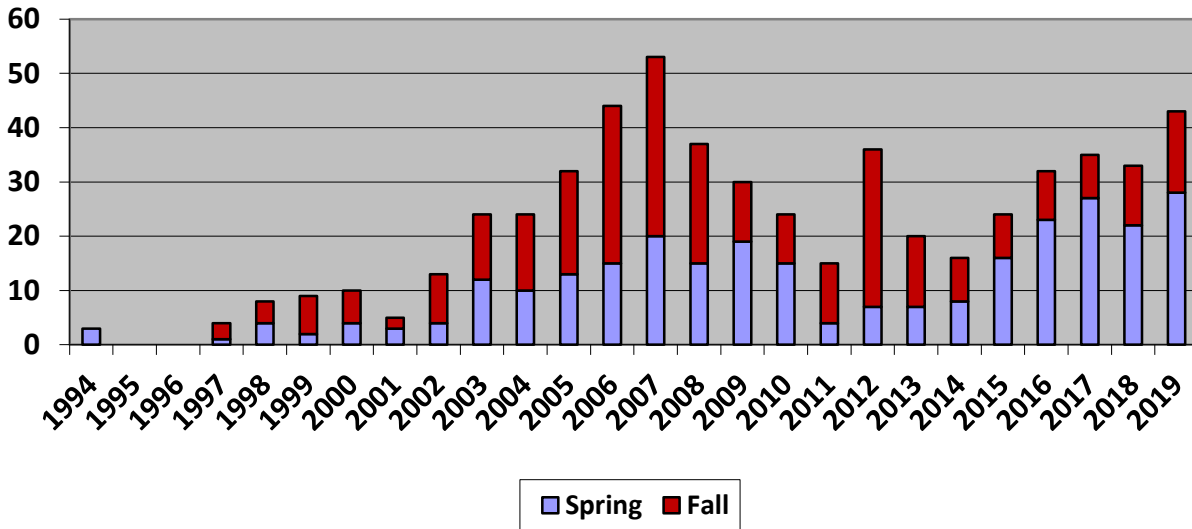


Figure 2. Wisconsin off-reservation, ceded territory mizise harvest, 1994-2019, by season.

## MINNESOTA

### Regulations

Mizise harvest in Minnesota has been very minimal, although all of the 1837 ceded territory was within zones open to turkey hunting with the exception of the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (Figure 3). Spring season dates were April 13 - May 31; fall season dates were the day after Labor Day – Dec. 31. Complete turkey harvest regulations are included in each tribe’s off-reservation model code. Summary regulations can be found under the “Harvest Regulations” tab at [www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org).

### Harvest

Somewhat surprisingly, after a record harvest of 9 birds in 2018, no birds were harvested in the Minnesota ceded territory in 2019.

The total previous harvest from the MN ceded territory since 1998 consisted of 9 birds taken in 2018, 7 birds taken in 2017, 2 birds taken in 2016, 2 in 2015, 3 in 2014, 1 in 2013, 3 in 2010, 3 in 2008 and 2 in 2007 (a total of 32 birds).

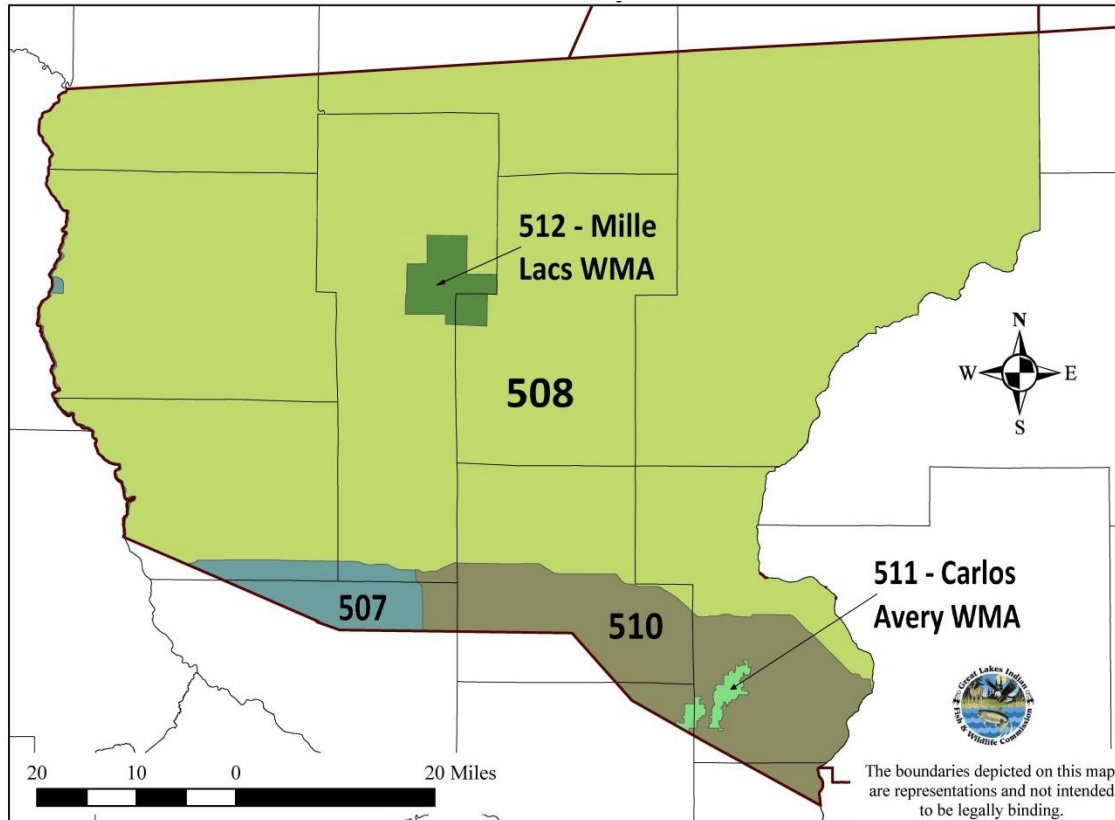


Figure 3. Minnesota ceded territory mizise zones. (Note that these zones differ from the Tribal Wildlife Management Units which tribal members now use to report harvest.)

## LITERATURE CITED

David, P. 2008. Mizise (Turkey) Harvest in the Wisconsin Ceded Territories, 1994-2007. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Administrative Report 08-14. 5pp.