



**OCHIG (fisher), NIGIG (otter)
AND GIDAGAA-BIZHIW (bobcat)
HARVESTS DURING 2003 - 2004
IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES
IN WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA**

by

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the 2003 - 2004 off-reservation treaty trapping seasons for ochig (fishers), nigig (otters) and gidagaa-bizhiw (bobcats) in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Hunters and trappers were members of the six Wisconsin Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and the Mille Lacs Chippewa Tribe (Minnesota). Harvests by Fond du Lac trappers was reported by Schrage (2004) but are included in totals in this report.

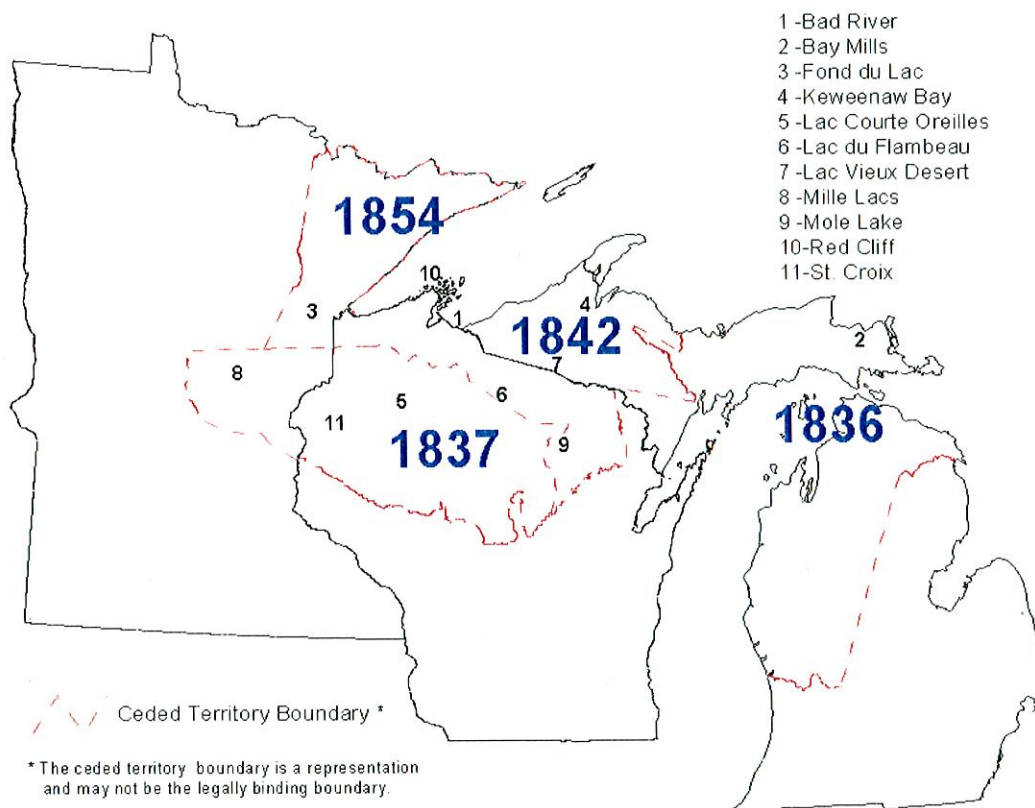


Figure 1. Location of GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota:

Regulations and Annual Summary

Wisconsin

The trapping season began on October 1 for otters and bobcats and on November 1 for fishers. The season ended on March 31 for all species. 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 next working day. Fisher harvest was limited by zone, while otter and bobcat harvests occurred throughout the ceded territories.

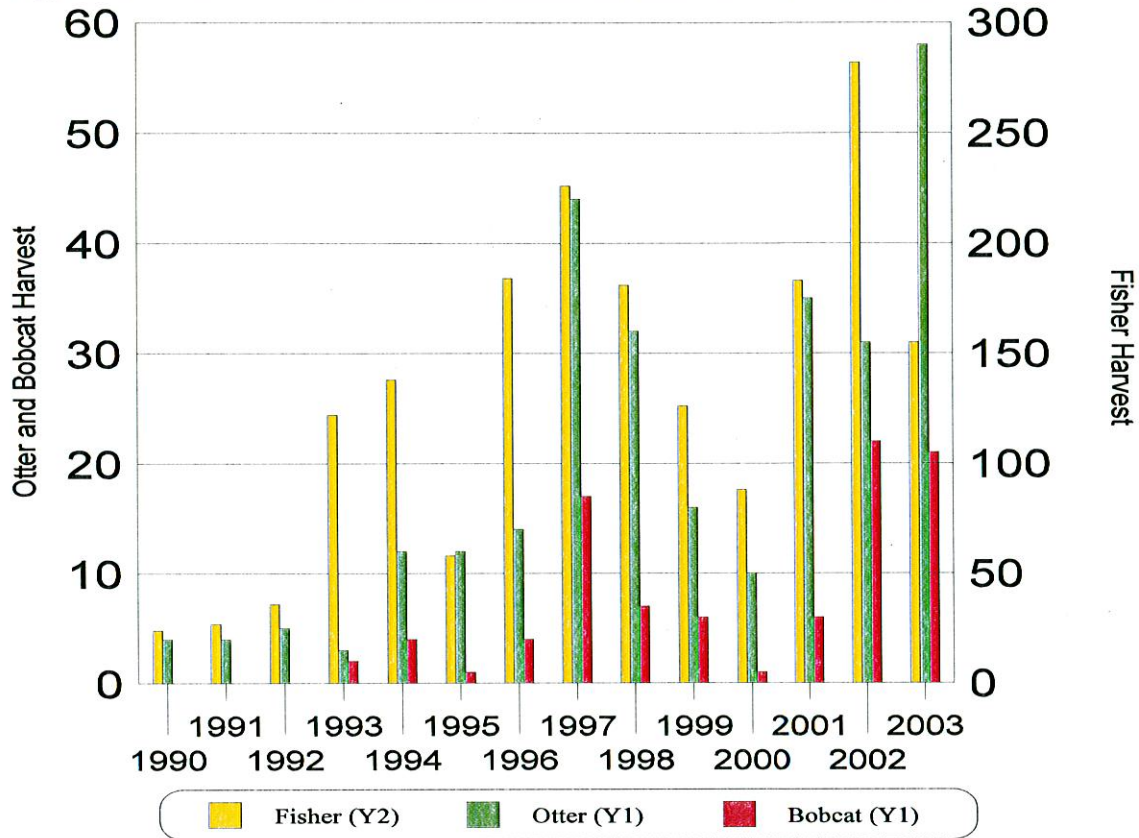
The number of tribal members validating their permits for trapping has been around 1,000 over the past three years (Table 1). Compared to 2002 - 2003, fisher harvest declined from 282 to 155 while bobcat harvest was similar 22 versus 21, respectively (Figure 2). Otter harvest in 2003-2004 increased to a record level (58).

Table 1. Number of licensed trappers and numbers of fishers, otters, and bobcats harvested by tribal members in Wisconsin during off-reservation treaty trapping seasons from 1991 - 92 through 2003 - 2004.

Season	Number of Licensed Trappers*	Fisher Harvest	Otter Harvest	Bobcat Harvest
1990 - 1991	408	24	4	0
1991 - 1992	248	27	4	0
1992 - 1993	512	36	5	0
1993 - 1994	704	122	3	2
1994 - 1995	736	138	12	4
1995 - 1996	966	58	12	1
1996 - 1997	1,125	184	14	4
1997-1998	1,449	226	44	17
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

* The number of licensed trappers reflects the number of tribal members validating their off-reservation treaty harvesting permit

Figure 2. Tribal fisher, otter and bobcat harvests in Wisconsin, 1990-2003.



ny trapping tags. From 1997 - 98 through 2003 - 2004 this number included Mille Lacs members trapping in Minnesota.

Minnesota

This was the fifth off-reservation treaty trapping season in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota. The 2003 - 2004 treaty trapping seasons were concurrent with those in Wisconsin. No fisher, otter, bobcat or marten was harvested in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota.

FISHER HARVEST

Wisconsin

The off-reservation treaty fisher season began on November 1, 2003 and extended to March 31, 2004. During this 151 day period a total of 155 fishers were harvested off-reservation by tribal members (Table 2). This represented a decline of more than 100 fishers from the 2002 - 2003 harvest (282) (Table 1).

The tribal harvest was skewed towards males (63%). Research indicates that when the sex ratio of the harvest is in favor of males, the population is not being over-exploited. Fisher populations in the ceded territory are healthy and have stabilized at about 10,000 - 11,000 fishers (population modeling, WDNR).

Table 2. Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest as reported by registration station for the 2003 - 2004 season.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	5	0	5
Lac Courte Oreilles	54	38	92
Lac du Flambeau	6	1	7
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	0	0	0
Red Cliff	11	6	17
St. Croix	21	13	34
Totals	97	58	155

Tribal trappers harvested fisher in 3 of the 5 fisher trapping zones (Table 3, Figures 3 and 4). Tribal members harvested less than 50% of their declaration in each fisher zone and 20% of the overall quota. Tribal harvest was concentrated in a few management units in each zone. Many of these management units are popular units for other wildlife harvests (Gilbert 2004).

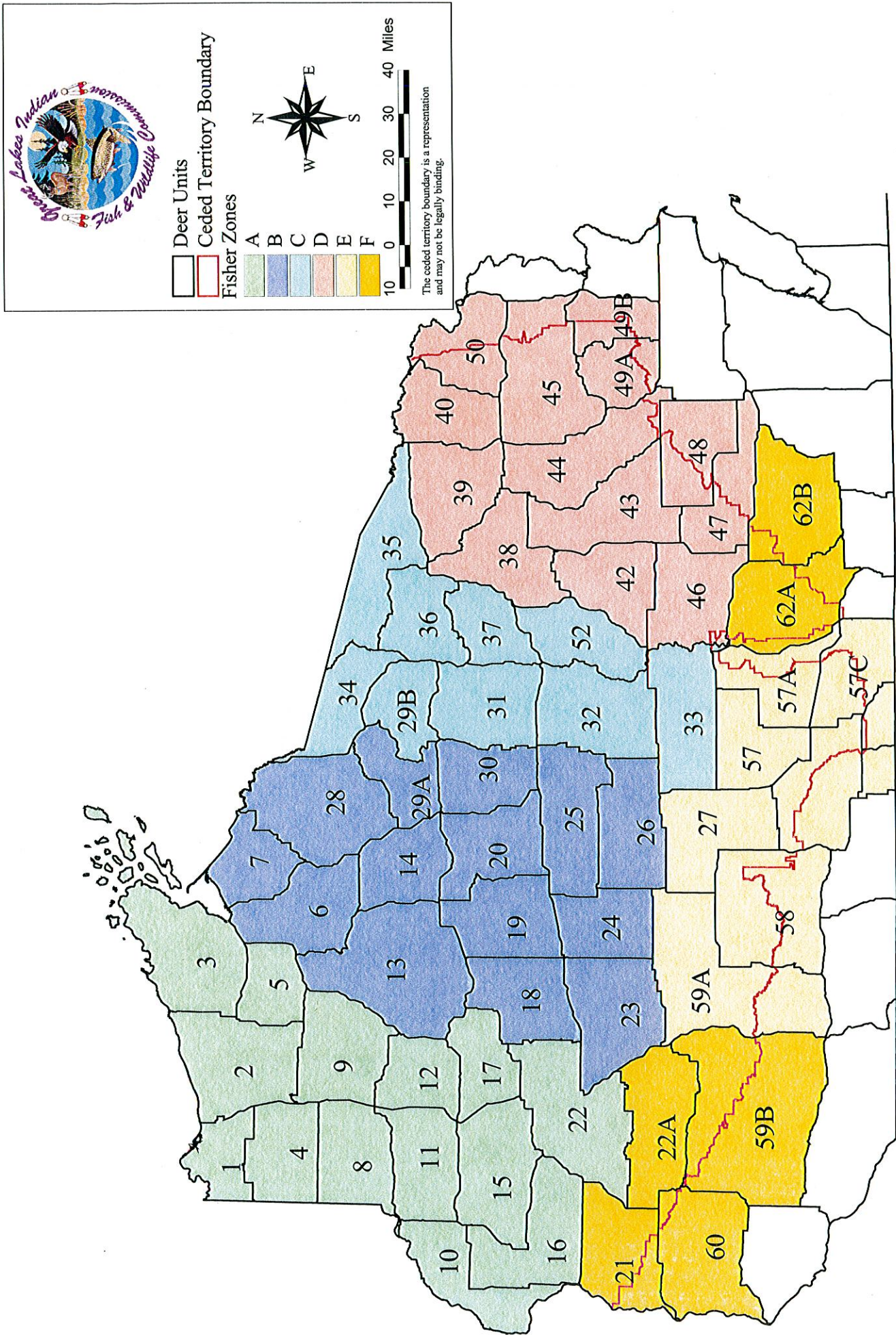


Figure 3. Location of fisher management zones, comprised of deer management units, in Wisconsin.

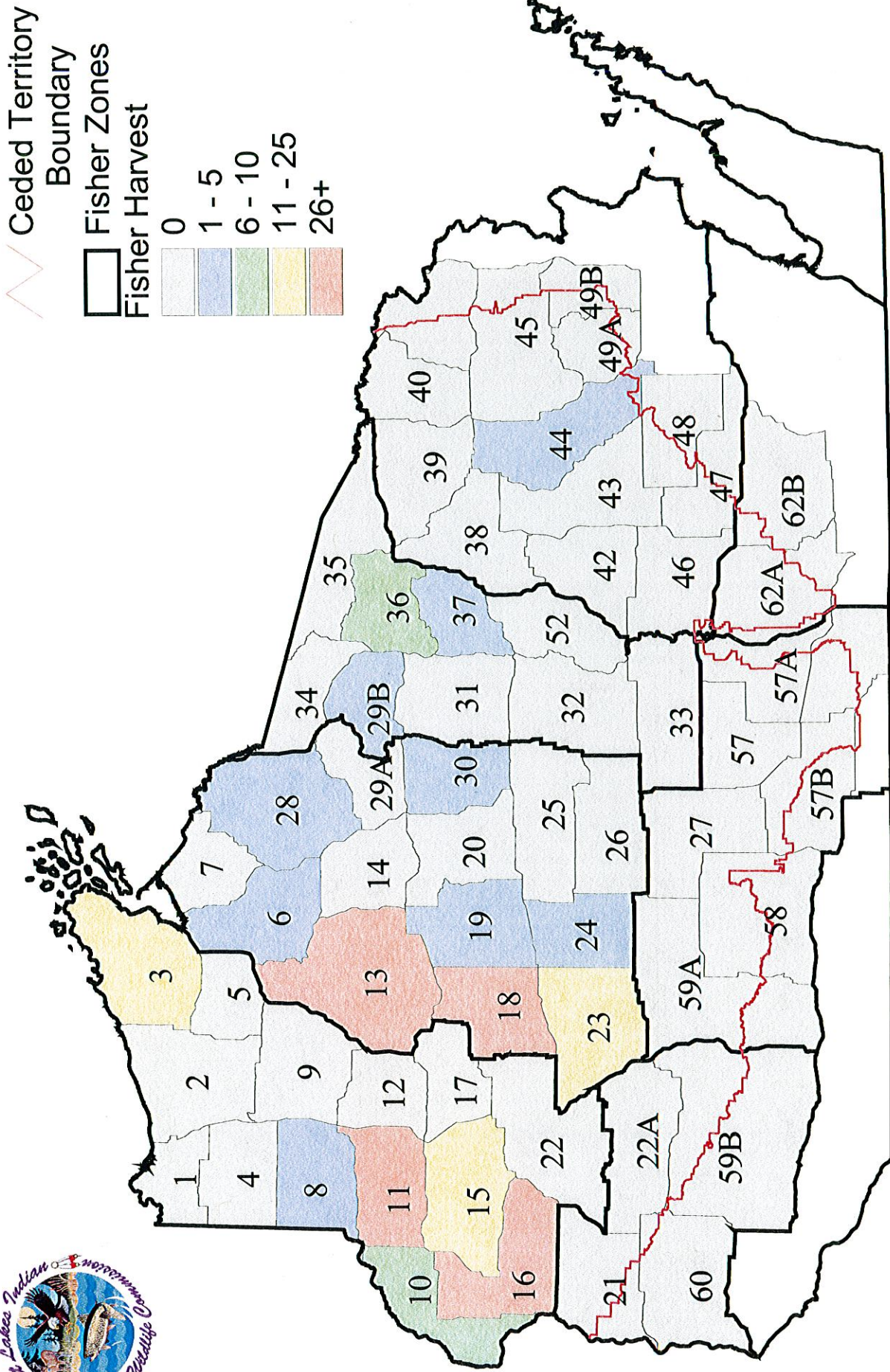


Figure 4. Distribution of tribal off-reservation treaty fisher harvest in the Wisconsin ceded territories during the 2004 - 2005 trapping season.

Table 3. Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest and quota levels reported by management unit and zone for the 2003 - 2004 season in Wisconsin.

ZONE	UNIT	TRIBAL QUOTA	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
A	2	225	7	2	9
	3		4	1	5
	5		3	2	5
	8		0	1	1
	11		18	11	29
	12		1	0	1
	15		2	0	2
	17		15	6	21
	SUBTOTAL		50	23	73
B	6	210	2	0	2
	13		24	15	39
	18		13	14	27
	19		2	5	7
	SUBTOTAL		41	34	75
C	29B	160	2	1	3
	37		4	0	4
	SUBTOTAL		6	1	7
D	39	160	0	0	0
	43		0	0	0
	44		0	0	0
	SUBTOTAL		0	0	0
E	SUBTOTAL	15	0	0	0
Unknown			0	0	0
TOTAL		770	97	58	155

Table 4. Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest totals reported by county for the 2003 - 2004 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Totals
Ashland	2	0	2
Bayfield	14	6	20
Burnett	21	13	34
Oneida	4	0	4
Rusk	10	15	25
Sawyer	43	23	66
Vilas	2	1	3
Washburn	1	0	1
Totals	97	58	155

Tribal harvest of fisher was distributed among 8 counties (Table 4) with 43% of the harvest taken from Sawyer County. Rusk County and Burnett County also had relatively large tribal harvests.

Minnesota

There were no fishers taken from the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota by either Fond du Lac members (Schrage 2004) or members of Mille Lacs or the Wisconsin bands.

OTTER HARVEST

Wisconsin

Fifty eight (58) otters were harvested off-reservation by tribal members during the 2003 - 2004 trapping season (Tables 5, 6 and 7), which was held concurrent with the fisher trapping season. This was the highest number of otters harvested since 1990 (when off-reservation treaty trapping began) (Table 1). Most otters were registered at LCO and St. Croix registration stations.

Table 5. Off-reservation treaty otter harvest as reported by registration station for the 2003 - 2004 season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	1	0	1
Lac Courte Oreilles	17	12	29
Lac du Flambeau	1	4	5
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	0	0	0
Red Cliff	1	2	3
St. Croix	13	7	20
Totals	33	25	58

Minnesota

There were no otters registered in the 1837 ceded territory by tribal members (Schrage 2004).

Table 6. Off-reservation treaty otter harvest reported by deer management unit for the 2003 - 2004 season in Wisconsin.

Deer Management Unit	Males	Females	Totals
3	1	2	3
6	1	0	1
8	0	1	1
11	12	6	18
12	1	1	2
13	9	4	13
15	1	0	1
17	1	0	1
18	5	4	9
22	0	1	1
23	1	2	3
29B	0	2	2
37	1	2	3
Totals	33	25	58

Table 7. Off-reservation treaty otter harvest as reported by county for the 2003 - 2004 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Totals
Ashland	1	0	1
Barron	0	1	1
Bayfield	1	2	3
Burnett	13	7	20
Chippewa	1	2	3
Oneida	1	2	3
Rusk	0	2	2
Sawyer	15	6	21
Vilas	0	2	2
Washburn	1	1	2
Total	33	25	58

BOBCAT HARVEST

Wisconsin

There were 21 bobcats harvested during the 2003 - 2004 off-reservation treaty trapping season, which began October 1, 2003 and extended through March 31, 2004 (Tables 8, 9 and 10).

Table 8. Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest as reported by registration station for the 2003 - 2004 season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Total
Bad River	1	2	3
Lac Courte Oreilles	3	1	4
Lac du Flambeau	2	1	3
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	0	0	0
Red Cliff	2	2	4
St. Croix	5	2	7
Total	13	8	21

Table 9. Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest reported by deer management unit for the 2003 - 2004 season in Wisconsin.

Deer Management Unit	Males	Females	Total
3	1	1	2
4	1	0	1
6	1	3	4
8	2	0	2
11	2	1	3
13	3	2	5
17	1	0	1
30	0	1	1
37	2	0	2
Total	13	8	21

Table 10. Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest as reported by county for the 2003 - 2004 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Total
Ashland	1	3	4
Bayfield	1	1	2
Burnett	5	1	6
Douglas	1	0	1
Oneida	2	1	3
Sawyer	3	2	5
Total	13	8	21

Minnesota

No bobcats were harvested by tribal members in the Minnesota portion of the 1837 ceded territory (Schrage 2004).

LITERATURE CITED

- Gilbert, J. H. 2004. Results of the 2003 treaty deer and bear harvest 1837 & 1842 ceded territories in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Admin Report 04 - 03. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, WI. 26pp.
- Schrage, M. 2004. 2003 - 2004 Registered Furbearer Harvest Report for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.. Fond du Lac Band. Minnesota.