



**OCHIG (fisher), NIGIG (otter)  
AND GIDAGAA-BIZHIW (bobcat)  
HARVESTS DURING 2004 - 2005  
IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES  
IN WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA**

by

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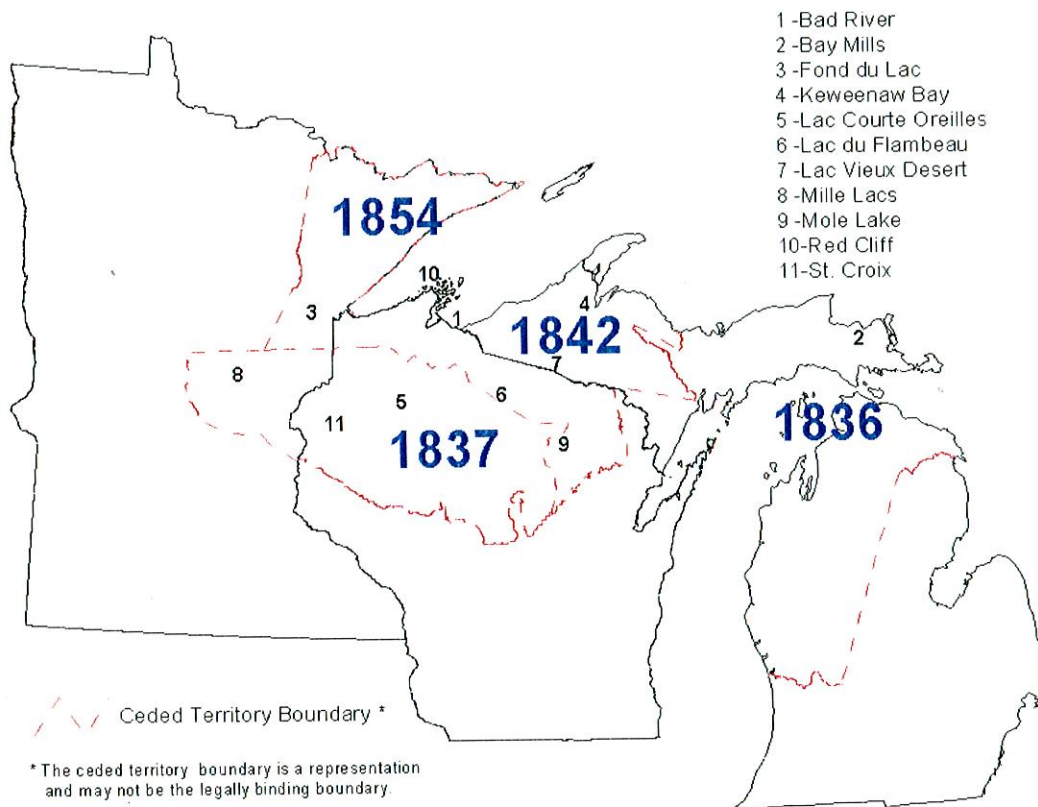
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**OCHIG (fisher), NIGIG (otter) AND GIDAGAA-BIZHIW (bobcat) HARVESTS  
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**Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the 2004 - 2005 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 were reported by Schrage (2005) 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 managed by zone, while otter and bobcat harvest limits applied throughout the ceded territories.

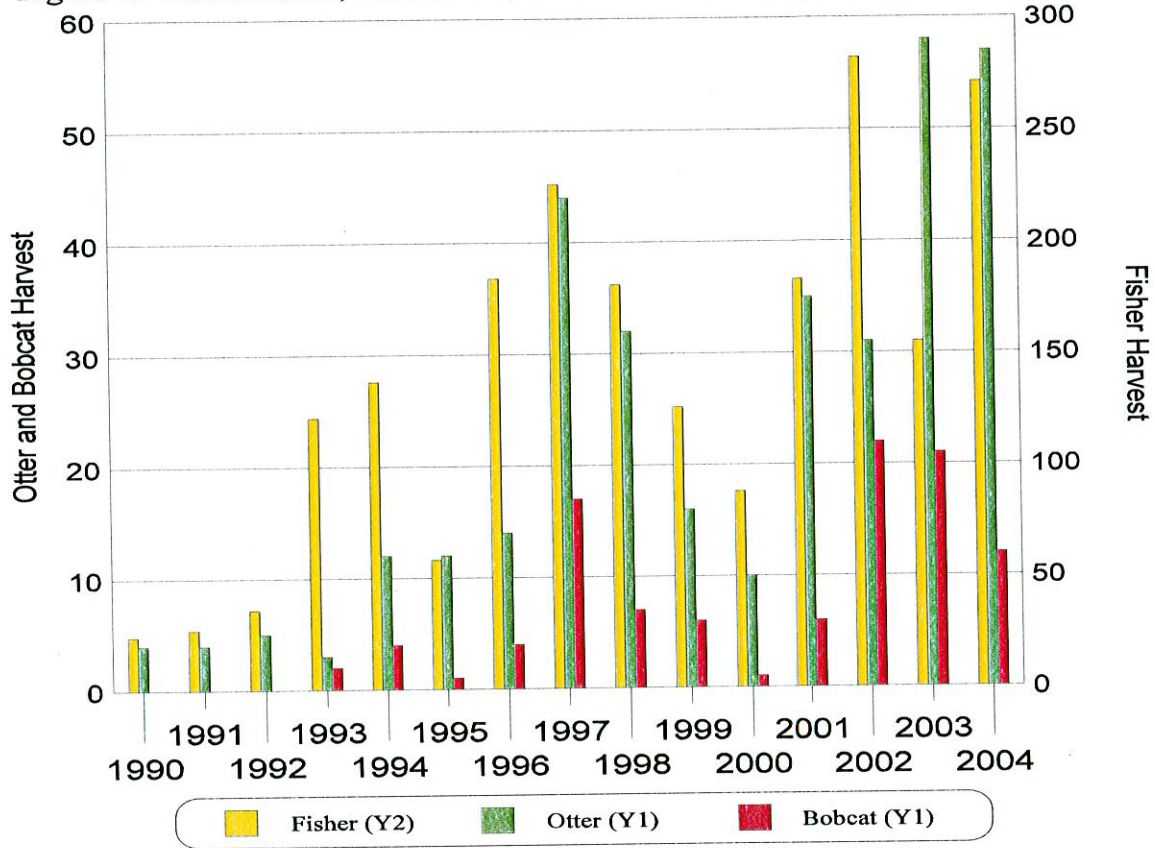
The number of tribal members validating their permits for trapping has been around 1,000 over the past four years (Table 1). Compared to 2003 - 2004, fisher harvest increased from 155 to 271, bobcat harvest declined from 21 to 12 while otter harvest remained nearly unchanged (Figure 2).

**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 2004 - 2005.

Season	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
2004 - 2005	943	271	57	12

\* The number of licensed trappers reflects the number of tribal members validating their off-reservation treaty harvesting permit for trapping, whether or not they set any traps or received any trapping tags. From 1997 - 98 through 2004 - 2005 this number included Mille Lacs members trapping in Minnesota.

Figure 2. Tribal fisher, otter and bobcat harvests in Wisconsin, 1990-2004.



## Minnesota

This was the fifth off-reservation treaty trapping season in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota. The 2004 - 2005 treaty trapping seasons were concurrent with those in Wisconsin. No fisher, otter, bobcat or marten was harvested in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota during 2004 - 2005.

## FISHER HARVEST

### Wisconsin

The off-reservation treaty fisher season began on November 1, 2004 and extended to March 31, 2005. During this 151 day period a total of 271 fishers were harvested off-reservation by tribal members (Table 2). This represented an increase of more than 100 fishers from the 2003 - 2004 harvest (155) but similar to harvest in 2002 - 2003 (282) (Table 1).

The tribal harvest was skewed towards males (54%). 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 2004 - 2005 season.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	4	1	5
Lac Courte Oreilles	93	65	158
Lac du Flambeau	5	10	15
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	3	1	4
Red Cliff	7	15	22
St. Croix	34	33	67
<b>Totals</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>271</b>

Tribal trappers harvested fisher in 4 of the 5 fisher trapping zones (Table 3, Figures 3 and 4). Tribal members harvested about 60% of their declaration in Zone A, 55% in Zone B, and 35% 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).



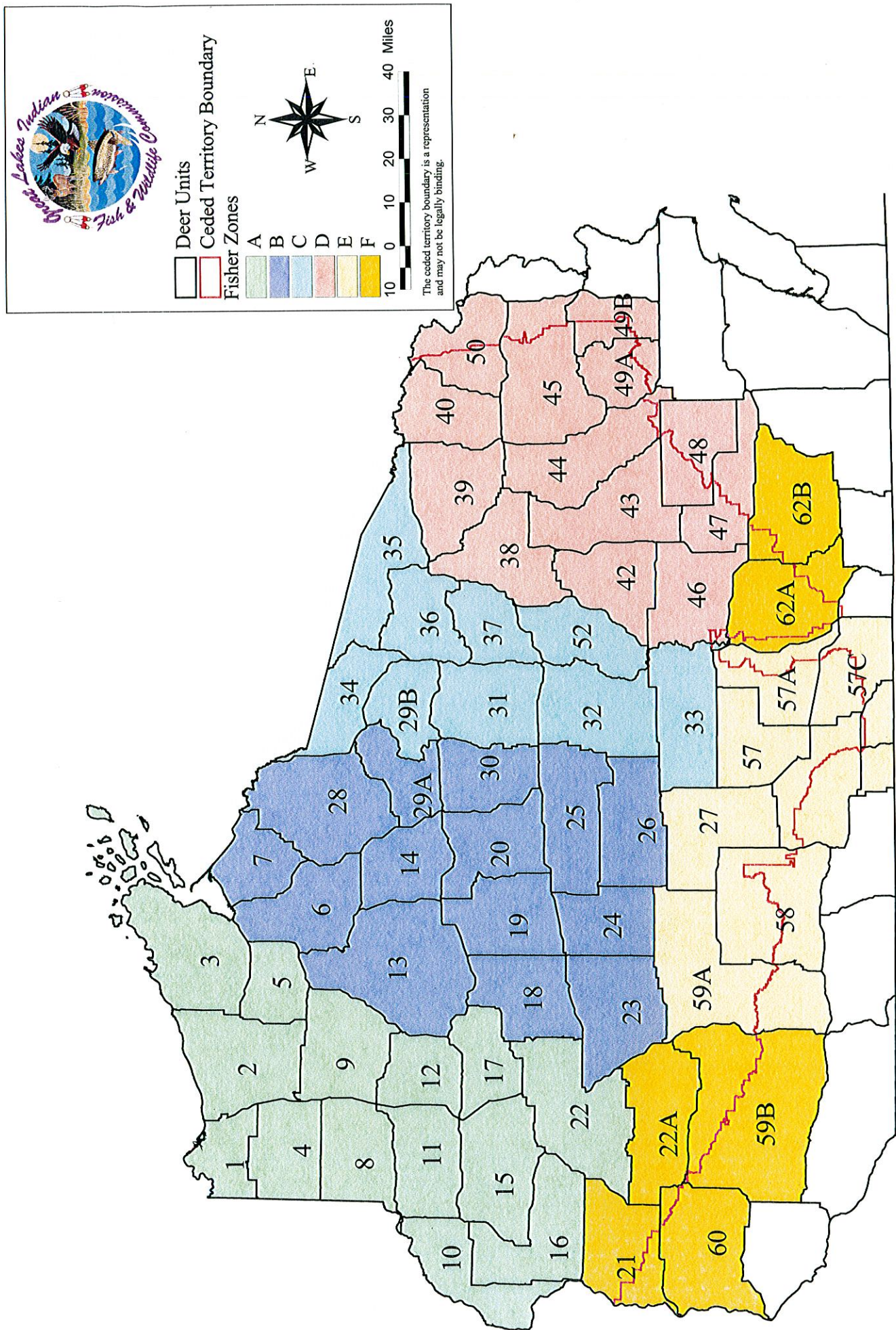


Figure 3. Location of fisher management zones, comprised of deer management units, in Wisconsin.





Ceded Territory  
Boundary

Fisher Zones

Fisher Harvest

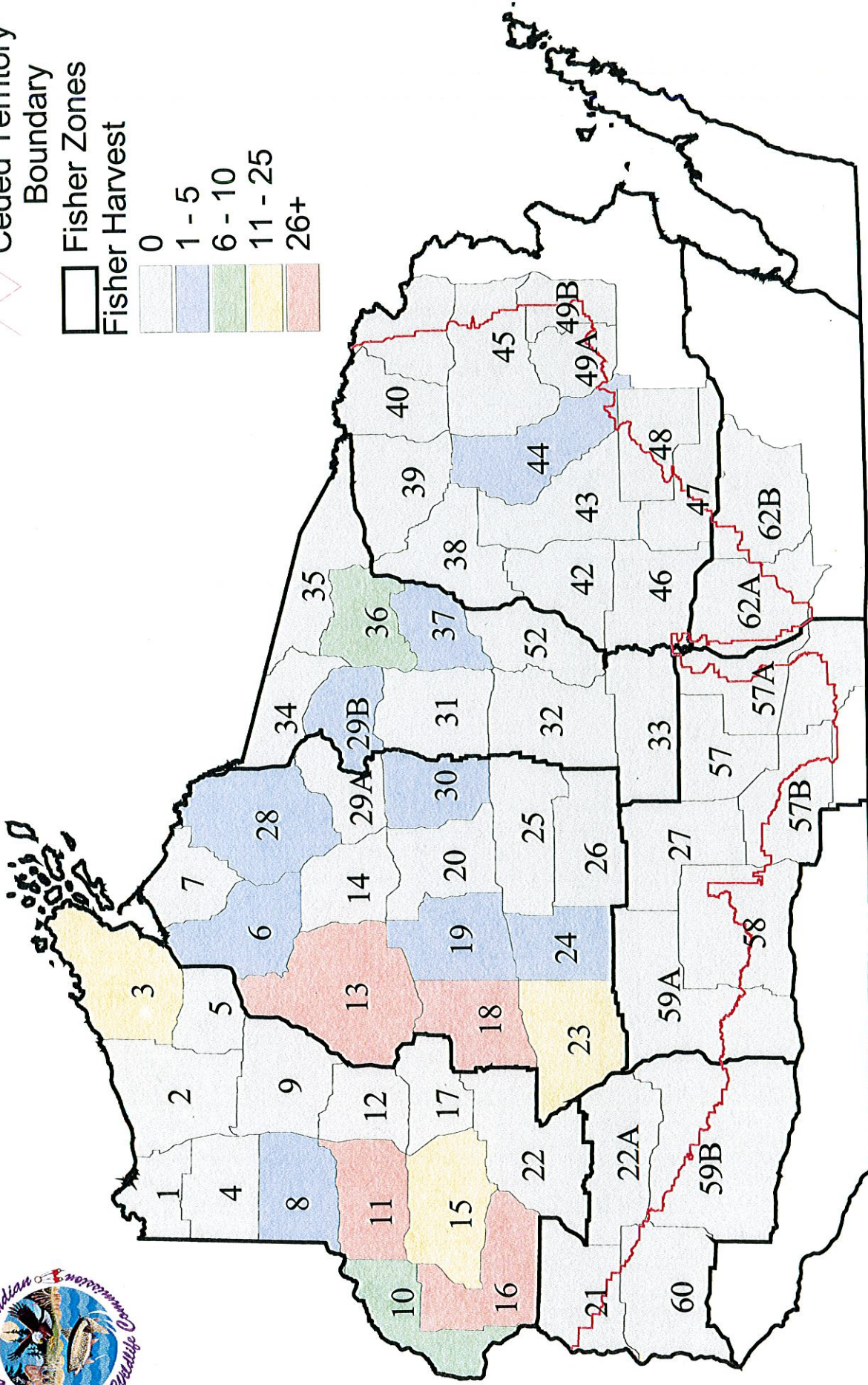
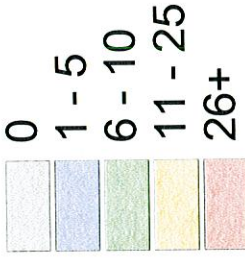


Figure 4. Distribution of tribal off-reservation treaty fisher harvest in the Wisconsin ceded territories during the 2004 - 2005 trapping season.

**Table 3.** Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest and quota levels reported by deer management unit (DMU) and fisher zone for the 2004 - 2005 season in Wisconsin.

FISHER ZONE	DMU	TRIBAL QUOTA	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
A	3	225	7	15	22
	8		2	3	5
	10		3	5	8
	11		22	10	32
	15		5	11	16
	17		33	20	53
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		72	64	136
B	6	210	1	0	1
	13		23	9	32
	18		25	26	51
	19		1	1	2
	23		12	11	23
	24		1	2	3
	28		3	1	4
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		66	50	116
C	29B	160	1	0	1
	30		0	1	1
	36		4	6	10
	37		0	3	3
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		5	10	15
D	44	160	3	1	4
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		3	1	4
E	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	15	0	0	0
Unknown	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		770	146	125	271



**Table 4.** Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest totals reported by county for the 2004 - 2005 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Totals
Ashland	1	0	1
Bayfield	7	15	22
Burnett	32	28	60
Chippewa	10	9	19
Forest	3	1	4
Iron	3	1	4
Oneida	4	9	13
Polk	0	1	1
Price	0	1	1
Rusk	30	29	59
Sawyer	30	13	43
Vilas	1	0	1
Washburn	25	18	43
<b>Totals</b>	146	125	271

Tribal harvest of fisher was distributed among 13 counties (Table 4) an increase of 5 counties over 2003 - 2004. During the 2003 - 2004 season, harvest in Sawyer County was greatest. However, in 2004 - 2005 harvest in Burnett and Rusk counties surpassed harvest in Sawyer county while harvest in Washburn county was identical.

#### Minnesota

There were no fishers taken from the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota by either Fond du Lac members (Schrage 2005) or members of Mille Lacs or the Wisconsin bands.

## OTTER HARVEST

### Wisconsin

Fifty seven (57) otters were harvested off-reservation by tribal members during the 2004 - 2005 trapping season (Tables 5, 6 and 7), which ran concurrent with the fisher trapping season. This harvest was second only to last year in the number of otters registered (Table 1). Was was the case last year, most otters were registered at LCO and St. Croix.

**Table 5.** Off-reservation treaty otter harvest as reported by registration station for the 2004 - 2005 season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	2	0	2
Lac Courte Oreilles	16	12	28
Lac du Flambeau	0	0	0
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	0	1
Red Cliff	0	0	0
St. Croix	20	6	26
<b>Totals</b>	39	18	57

### Minnesota

There were no otters registered in the 1837 ceded territory by tribal members (Schrage 2005).

**Table 6.** Off-reservation treaty otter harvest reported by deer management unit for the 2004 - 2005 season in Wisconsin.

<b>Deer Management Unit</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>11</b>	13	4	17
<b>13</b>	9	3	12
<b>15</b>	7	2	9
<b>18</b>	4	3	7
<b>23</b>	0	3	3
<b>24</b>	3	3	6
<b>28</b>	2	0	2
<b>39</b>	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	39	18	57



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

<b>County</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Burnett</b>	20	6	26
<b>Chippewa</b>	3	6	9
<b>Forest</b>	1	0	1
<b>Iron</b>	2	0	2
<b>Rusk</b>	2	2	4
<b>Sawyer</b>	11	4	15
<b>Total</b>	39	18	57

## BOBCAT HARVEST

### Wisconsin

There were 12 bobcats harvested during the 2004 - 2005 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 2004 - 2005 season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Total
Bad River	0	2	2
Lac Courte Oreilles	2	1	3
Lac du Flambeau	0	0	0
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	2	3
Red Cliff	0	0	0
St. Croix	2	2	4
Total	5	7	12

**Table 9.** Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest reported by deer management unit for the 2004 - 2005 season in Wisconsin.

<b>Deer Management Unit</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>8</b>	1	0	1
<b>11</b>	1	2	3
<b>13</b>	2	1	3
<b>28</b>	0	2	2
<b>39</b>	0	2	2
<b>44</b>	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	5	7	12

**Table 10.** Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest as reported by county for the 2004 - 2005 season in Wisconsin.

<b>County</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Burnett</b>	2	2	4
<b>Forest</b>	1	2	3
<b>Iron</b>	0	2	2
<b>Sawyer</b>	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	5	7	12

#### Minnesota

No bobcats were harvested by tribal members in the Minnesota portion of the 1837 ceded territory (Schrage 2005).



## 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. 2005. 2004 - 2005 Registered Furbearer Harvest Report for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.. Fond du Lac Band. Minnesota.