



**OCHIG (fisher), NIGIG (otter)  
AND GIDAGAA-BIZHIW (bobcat)  
HARVESTS DURING 2005 - 2006  
IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES  
IN WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA**

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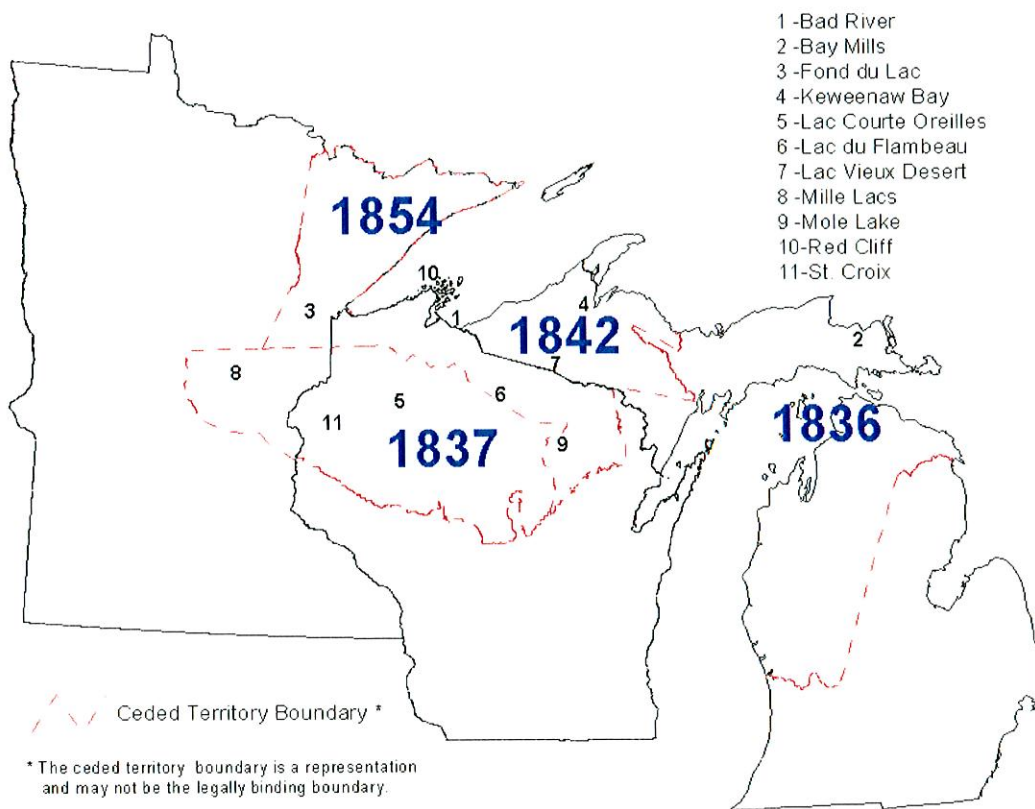
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## **OCHIG (fisher), NIGIG (otter) AND GIDAGAA-BIZHIW (bobcat) HARVESTS DURING 2005 - 2006 IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES IN WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the 2005 - 2006 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 (Figure 1). 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 third working day after harvest. Fisher harvest was managed by zone, while otter and bobcat harvest limits applied throughout the ceded territories.

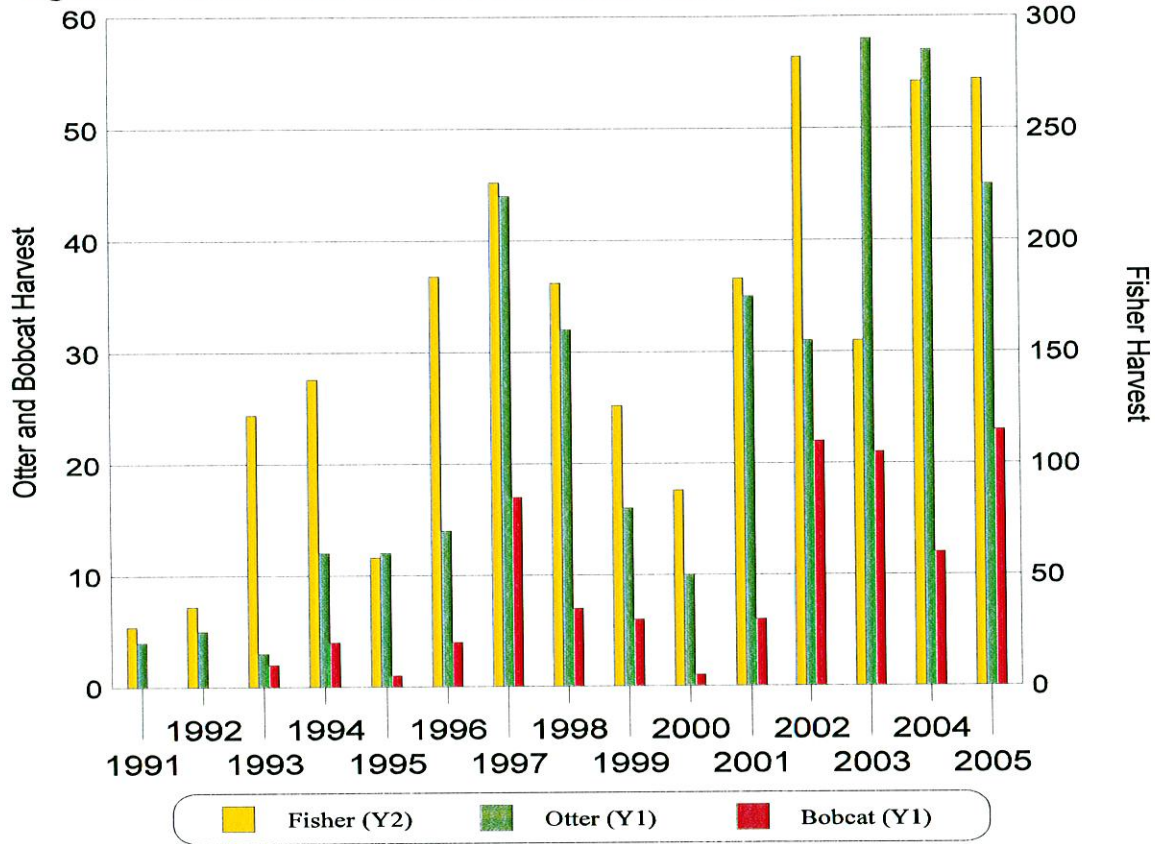
The number of tribal members validating their permits for trapping increased by more than 500 from 2004 to 1,467 trappers (Table 1). Fisher harvest was nearly identical to 2004, while otter harvest declined and bobcat harvest increased (Figure 2).

**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 2005 - 2006.

Season	Licensed Trappers*	Fisher Harvest	Otter Harvest	Bobcat Harvest
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
2005 - 2006	1,467	272	45	23

\* 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 2005 - 2006 this number included Mille Lacs members trapping in Minnesota.

Figure 2. Tribal fisher, otter and bobcat harvests in Wisconsin, 1991-2005.



## Minnesota

This was the sixth off-reservation treaty trapping season in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota. The 2005 - 2006 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 2005 - 2006.

## FISHER HARVEST

### Wisconsin

The off-reservation treaty fisher season began on November 1, 2005 and extended to March 31, 2006. During this 151 day period a total of 272 fishers were harvested off-reservation by tribal members (Table 2). This represented an increase of 1 fisher from the 2004 - 2005 harvest (271) (Table 1).

The tribal harvest was skewed towards males (53%). 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 2005 - 2006 season.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	2	0	2
Lac Courte Oreilles	107	100	207
Lac du Flambeau	1	2	3
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	0	1
Red Cliff	7	2	9
St. Croix	21	21	42
In Field Registration	5	3	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>272</b>

Tribal trappers harvested fisher in 4 of the 5 fisher trapping zones (Table 3, Figures 3 and 4). Tribal members harvested about 47% of their declaration in Zone A, 73% 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 2005).

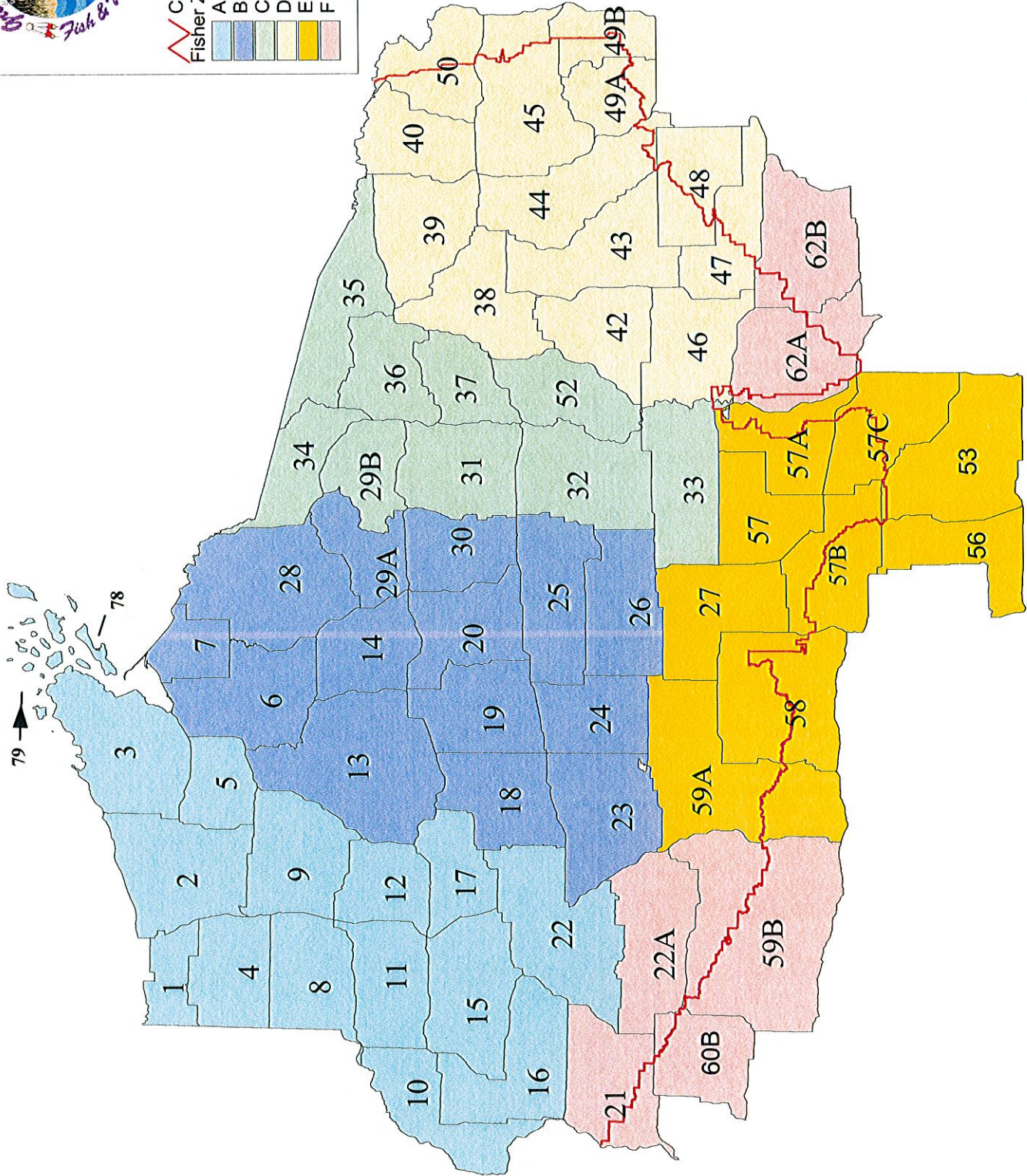


Figure 3. Location of fisher management zones (comprised of deer management units) in northern Wisconsin.

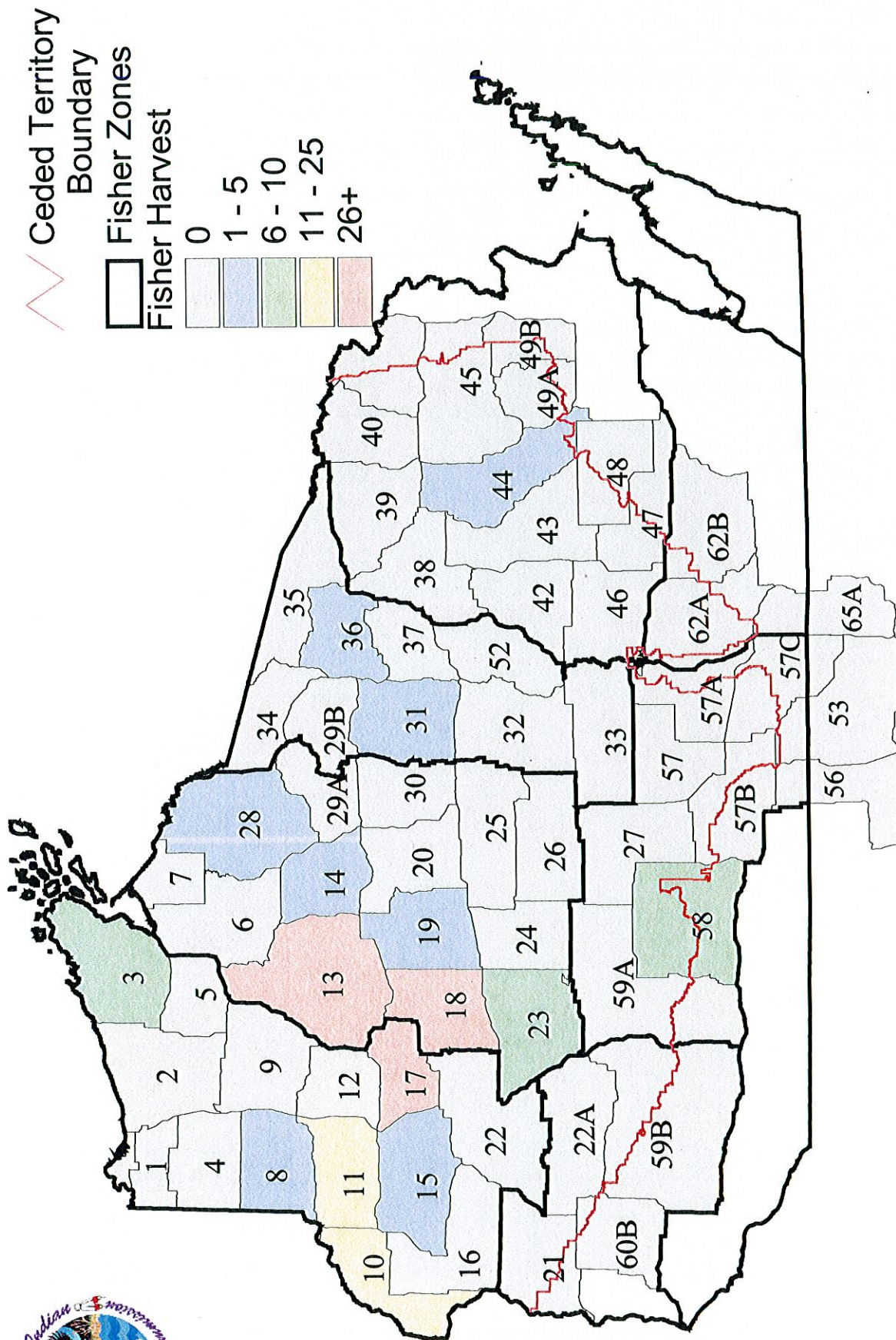


Figure 4. Distribution of tribal off-reservation treaty fisher harvest in the Wisconsin ceded territories during the 2005 - 2006 trapping season.

**Table 3.** Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest and quota levels reported by deer management unit (DMU) and fisher zone for the 2005 - 2006 season in Wisconsin.

FISHER ZONE	DMU	TRIBAL QUOTA	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
A	3	225	7	2	9
	8		2	1	3
	10		8	11	19
	11		6	5	11
	15		3	2	5
	17		29	29	58
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		55	50	105
B	6	210	1	0	1
	13		21	18	39
	14		1	0	1
	18		52	48	100
	19		2	1	3
	23		5	3	8
	28		1	0	1
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		83	70	153
C	31	160	1	0	1
	36		0	2	2
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		1	2	3
D	44	160	1	0	1
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		1	0	1
E	58	15	4	6	10
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		4	6	10
Unknown	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		770	144	128	272

**Table 4.** Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest totals reported by county for the 2005 - 2006 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Totals
Ashland	2	0	2
Bayfield	7	2	9
Burnett	19	19	38
Chippewa	5	3	8
Clark	4	6	10
Forest	1	0	1
Iron	1	0	1
Oneida	1	2	3
Rusk	30	34	64
Sawyer	44	34	78
Washburn	30	28	58
<b>Totals</b>	144	128	272

Tribal harvest of fisher was distributed among 11 counties (Table 4) a decline of 2 counties over 2004 - 2005. In 2004 - 2005 there were more fishers harvested in Sawyer county than any other. Rusk and Washburn counties were second and third, respectively.

#### Minnesota

There were no fishers taken from the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota by either Fond du Lac members (Schrage 2006) or members of Mille Lacs or the Wisconsin bands.

## OTTER HARVEST

### Wisconsin

Forty five (45) otters were harvested off-reservation by tribal members during the 2005 - 2006 trapping season (Tables 5, 6 and 7), which ran concurrent with the fisher trapping season. This harvest represented a decline of 12 otters from 2004 - 2005 (Table 1). Most otters were registered at Lac Courte Oreilles.

**Table 5.** Off-reservation treaty otter harvest as reported by registration station for the 2005 - 2006 season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	17	12	29
Lac du Flambeau	0	0	0
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	1	2
Red Cliff	0	0	0
St. Croix	7	7	14
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>45</b>

### Minnesota

There were no otters registered in the 1837 ceded territory by tribal members (Schrage 2006).

**Table 6.** Off-reservation treaty otter harvest reported by deer management unit for the 2005 - 2006 season in Wisconsin.

Deer Management Unit	Males	Females	Totals
10	1	1	2
11	6	4	10
13	5	3	8
15	0	2	2
18	2	4	6
19	0	1	1
23	4	1	5
24	6	3	9
44	1	1	2
<b>Totals</b>	25	20	45

**Table 7.** Off-reservation treaty otter harvest as reported by county for the 2005 - 2006 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Totals
Burnett	7	7	14
Chippewa	10	4	14
Forest	1	1	2
Rusk	1	1	2
Sawyer	6	7	13
<b>Total</b>	25	20	45

## BOBCAT HARVEST

### Wisconsin

There were 23 bobcats harvested during the 2005 - 2006 off-reservation treaty trapping season, which began October 1, 2005 and extended through March 31, 2006 (Tables 8, 9 and 10). This represented the largest off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest since 1990.

**Table 8.** Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest as reported by registration station for the 2005 - 2006 season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Total
Bad River	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	5	2	7
Lac du Flambeau	1	5	6
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	0	2	2
Red Cliff	1	0	1
St. Croix	3	3	6
In Field	0	1	1
Total	10	13	23

**Table 9.** Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest reported by deer management unit for the 2005 - 2006 season in Wisconsin.

<b>Deer Management Unit</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>3</b>	1	0	1
<b>8</b>	0	1	1
<b>11</b>	2	1	3
<b>13</b>	3	2	5
<b>15</b>	0	1	1
<b>18</b>	2	1	3
<b>19</b>	1	0	1
<b>29B</b>	0	1	1
<b>31</b>	0	2	2
<b>36</b>	1	1	2
<b>38</b>	0	1	1
<b>44</b>	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	10	13	23

**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>Bayfield</b>	1	0	1
<b>Burnett</b>	2	3	5
<b>Forest</b>	0	2	2
<b>Oneida</b>	0	4	4
<b>Rusk</b>	2	1	3
<b>Sawyer</b>	4	2	6
<b>Vilas</b>	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	10	13	23

#### Minnesota

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

## LITERATURE CITED

- Gilbert, J. H. 2005. Results of the 2004 treaty deer and bear harvest 1837 & 1842 ceded territories in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Admin Report 05 - 04. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, WI. 28pp.
- Schrage, M. 2006. 2005 - 2006 Registered Furbearer Harvest Report for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.. Fond du Lac Band. Minnesota.