



**OCHIG (fisher), NIGIG (otter)
AND GIDAGAA-BIZHIW (bobcat)
HARVESTS DURING 2011 - 2012
IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES
IN WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA**

by

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OCHIG (fisher), NIGIG (otter) AND GIDAGAA-BIZHIW (bobcat) HARVESTS DURING 2011 - 2012 IN THE 1837 AND 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES IN WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA

Additional CITES registrations were submitted after the November version of this report was written. Version 2 is updated to include these results.

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the 2011 - 2012 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 (2012) and are included in totals in this report.

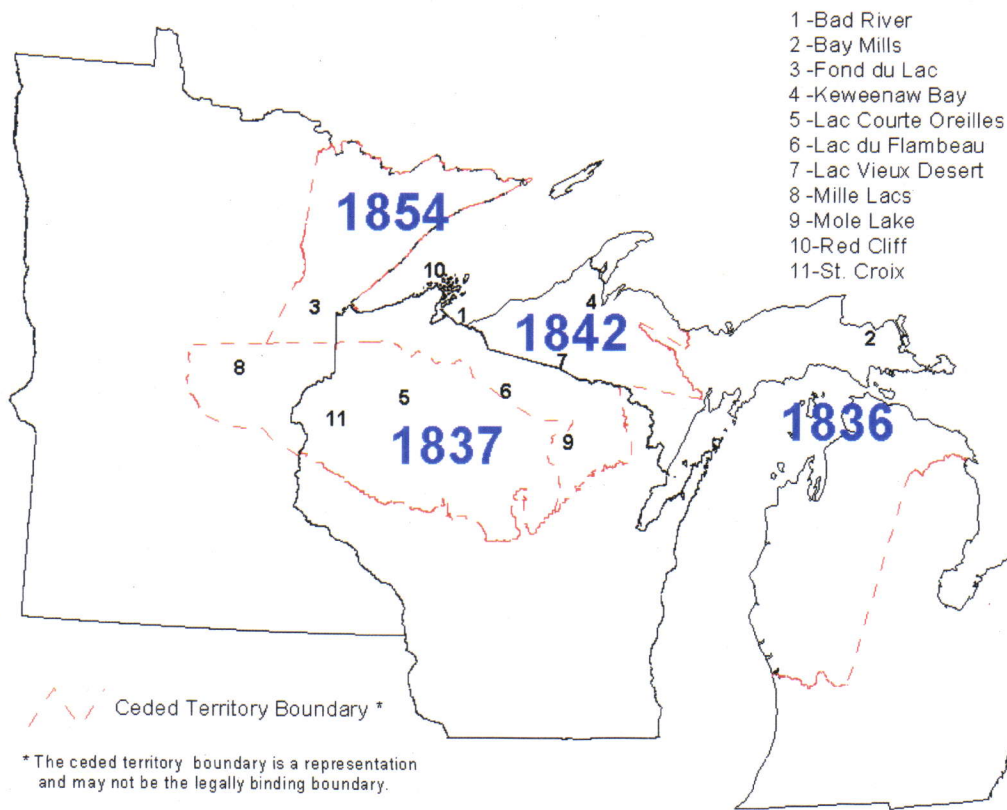


Figure 1. Location of GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Regulations and Annual Summary

Wisconsin

The trapping season began on October 1 for otters and bobcats and on November 1 for fishers. The bobcat hunting season began on September 7. Harvest records did not distinguish between bobcats trapped or shot. All seasons ended on March 31. 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.

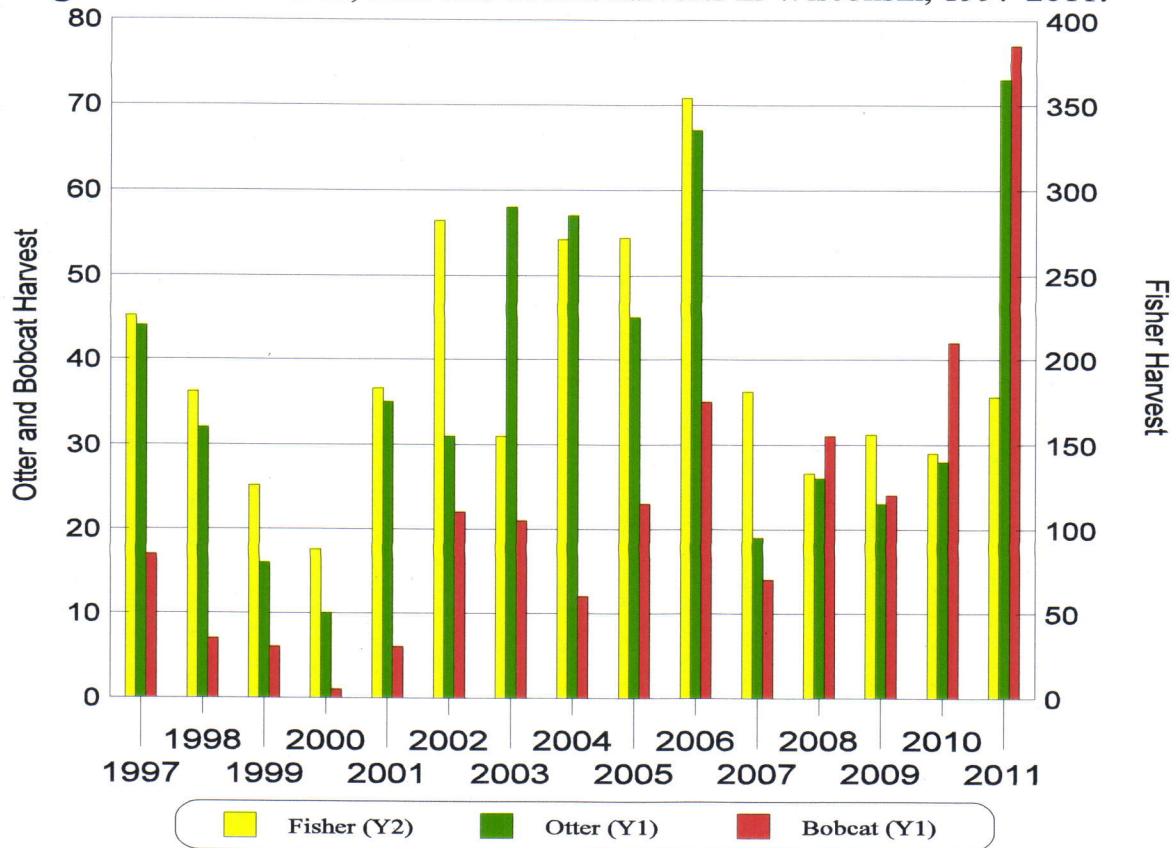
In the past a general permit was issued to people interested in trapping. No distinction was made between fisher trappers or otter trappers or bobcat harvesters. Starting in 2011, the on-line permit system required permits for each species harvested. Thus, the number of trappers/hunters and the number of successful trappers/hunters will be reported in each species section and not Table 1 as in the past. Fisher, otter and bobcat harvests increased from the 2010 - 2011 levels (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 1997 - 98 through 2011 - 2012.

Season	Licensed Trappers*	Fisher Harvest	Otter Harvest	Bobcat Harvest
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
2006 - 2007	1,265	354	65	35
2007 - 2008	1,032	181	19	14
2008 - 2009	1,241	133	26	31
2009 - 2010	1, 450	156	23	24
2010 - 2011	758	145	28	42
2011 - 2012	see text	178	73	77

* 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 2010 - 2011 this number included Mille Lacs members trapping in Minnesota.

Figure 2. Tribal fisher, otter and bobcat harvests in Wisconsin, 1997-2011.



Minnesota

The 2011 - 2012 treaty trapping seasons in the Minnesota (MN) 1837 ceded territory were concurrent with those in Wisconsin. In 2011 - 2012 there were no fishers, bobcats or martens registered at the Mille Lacs registration station or at the Fond du Lac station (Schrage 2012) for the 1837 ceded territory. There was 1 otter from MN registered at St. Croix.

CITES Program

In 2010 GLIFWC received authority to operate a furbearer export program on behalf of its member tribes (except for Fond du Lac) related to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) from the Division of Management Authority of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This program requires that all otters and bobcats that are to be exported be registered and tagged using a CITES tag. Those otters and bobcats not exported, but rather used for personal purposes (e.g. ceremonies) were to be registered but did not require a CITES tag. A unique feature of this program is that it applies to both on reservation as well as off reservation harvests. A table is provided in the otter and bobcat sections showing the CITES tagging information.

FISHER HARVEST

Wisconsin

The off-reservation treaty fisher season began on November 1, 2011 and extended to March 31, 2012. During this 151 day period a total of 175 fishers were harvested off-reservation (Table 2a). This represented a increase of 30 fishers from the 2010 - 2011 harvest (145) (Table 1).

Table 2a. Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest as reported by registration station for the 2011 - 2012 season.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	1	8	9
Fond du Lac	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	77	71	148
Lac du Flambeau	0	1	1
Mille Lacs	1	3	4
Mole Lake	0	0	0
Red Cliff	3	5	8
St. Croix	2	3	5
In Field Registration	3	0	3
Totals	87	91	178

There were 154 tribal members who obtained fisher trapping permits during the 2011 - 2012 trapping season (Table 2b). Red Cliff had the most trappers (58) followed by LCO (56). LCO had the most successful trappers (15) with the remainder of the 26 successful trappers being distributed among 5 of the remaining tribes.

Table 2b. Number of fisher trappers and successful trappers during the 2011 - 2012 trapping season.

Tribe of Enrollment	Fisher Trappers	Successful Trappers	Percent Successful
Bad River	18	2	11%
Lac Courte Oreilles	56	15	27%
Lac du Flambeau	8	1	13%
Mille Lacs	2	2	100%
Mole Lake	4	0	0%
Red Cliff	58	3	5%
St. Croix	8	3	38%
Totals	154	26	17%

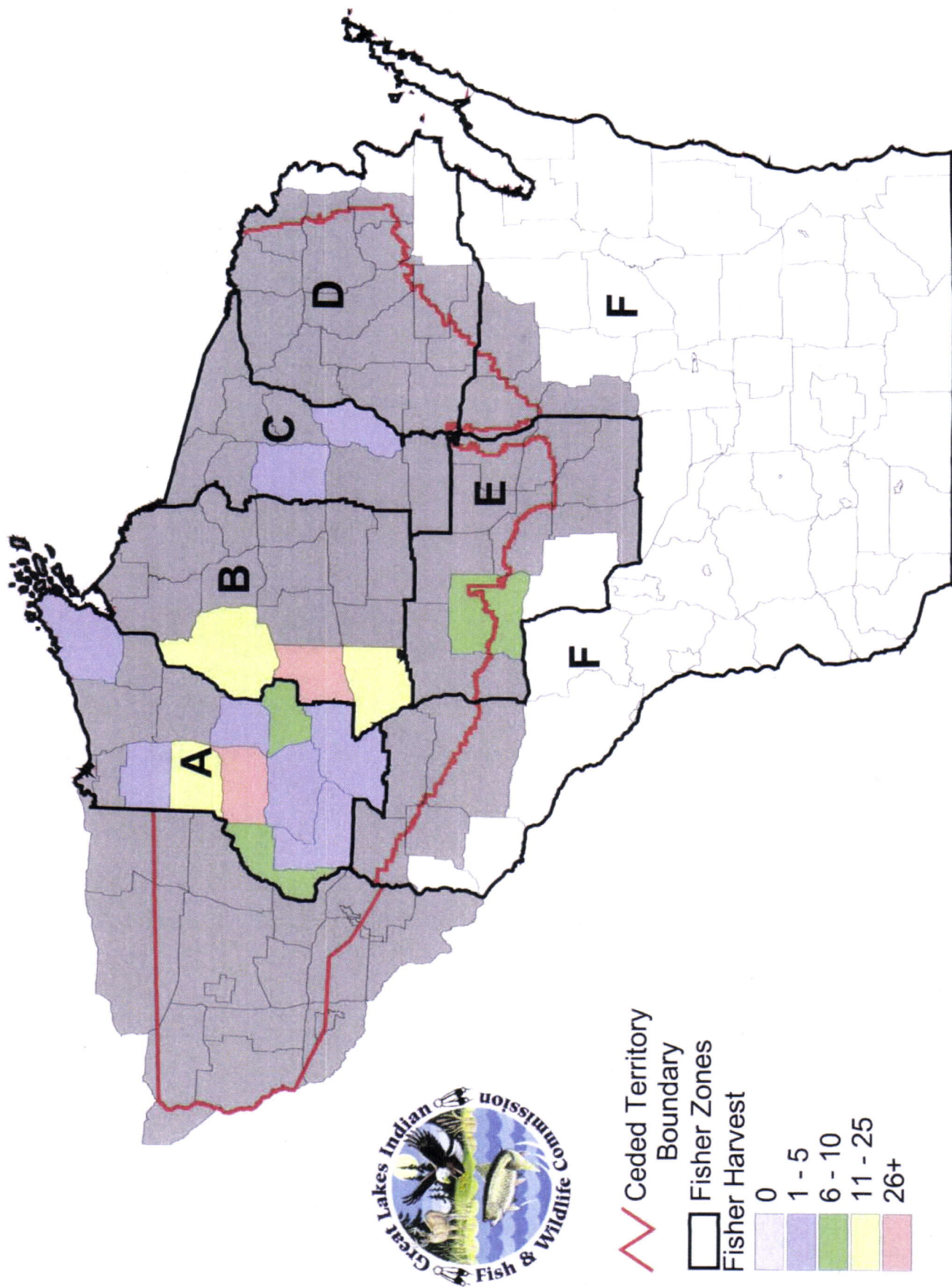


Figure 3. Distribution of tribal off-reservation treaty fisher harvest in the Wisconsin and Minnesota ceded territories during the 2011 - 2012 trapping season.

Tribal trappers in Wisconsin harvested fisher in 4 of the 6 fisher trapping zones (Table 3, Figure 3). Tribal members harvested 89 fishers in Zone A, 80 fishers in Zone B, and only a few in the other 2 zones. Tribal harvest was concentrated in a few management units in each zone. No fisher harvest zone had a tribal quota, rather the threshold system was in place for all zones.

Table 3. Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest and quota levels reported by deer management unit (DMU) and fisher zone for the 2011 - 2012 season in Wisconsin.

FISHER ZONE	DMU	TRIBAL QUOTA	MALE	FEMALE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
A	3	threshold	2	3	0	5
	4		2	3	0	5
	8		12	7	0	19
	10		2	6	0	8
	11		13	19	0	32
	12		1	1	0	2
	15		3	2	0	5
	16		0	2	0	2
	17		7	2	0	9
	22		0	2	0	2
	SUBTOTAL		42	47	0	89
B	13	threshold	11	7	0	18
	18		18	23	0	41
	23		11	10	0	21
	SUBTOTAL		40	40	0	80
C	SUBTOTAL		0	0	0	0
D	31	threshold	0	1	0	1
	52		1	1	0	2
	SUBTOTAL		1	2	0	3
E	58	threshold	4	2	0	6
	SUBTOTAL		4	2	0	6
F	SUBTOTAL	threshold	0	0	0	0
Unknown			0	0	0	0
TOTAL		0	87	91	0	178

Table 4. Off-reservation treaty fisher harvest totals reported by county for the 2011 - 2012 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Unknown	Totals
Barron	0	2	0	2
Bayfield	2	3	0	5
Burnett	30	35	0	65
Chippewa	6	5	0	11
Douglas	2	3	0	5
Eau Claire	5	3	0	8
Lincoln	1	1	0	2
Oneida	0	1	0	1
Polk	0	1	0	1
Rusk	20	23	0	43
Sawyer	20	14	0	34
Washburn	1	0	0	1
Totals	87	91	0	178

Tribal harvest of fisher was distributed among 12 counties (Table 4) an increase of 3 counties from 2010 - 2011. In the 2011 - 2012 season more fishers were harvested in Burnett county, followed by Rusk county.

Minnesota

No fishers were harvested by tribal members in the Minnesota 1837 ceded territory.

OTTER HARVEST

Wisconsin

Seventy three (73) otters were harvested off-reservation in Wisconsin during the 2011 - 2012 trapping season (Tables 5a, 6 and 7), which ran concurrent with the fisher trapping season. This harvest represented an increase of 45 otters from 2010 - 2011 (Table 1). Most otters were registered at St. Croix.

Table 5a. Off-reservation treaty otter harvest as reported by registration station for the 2011 - 2012 season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Unknown	Totals
Bad River	0	0	0	0
Fond du Lac	1	0	2	3
Lac Courte Oreilles	15	6	0	21
Lac du Flambeau	1	0	0	1
Mille Lacs	0	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	1	0	2
Red Cliff	0	0	0	0
St Croix	16	10	1	27
Warden Registration	8	11	0	19
Totals	42	28	3	73

There were 100 tribal members who obtained otter trapping permits with most being from LCO (44) followed by Red Cliff (25) (Table 5b). Eleven otter trappers were successful with most (6) being from LCO.

Table 5b. The number of otter trappers and successful otter trappers during the 2011 - 2012 otter trapping season.

Tribe of Enrollment	Otter Trappers	Successful Trappers	Percent Successful
Bad River	12	1	8%
Lac Courte Oreilles	44	6	14%
Lac du Flambeau	3	0	0%
Mille Lacs	2	0	0%
Mole Lake	8	2	25%
Red Cliff	25	2	8%
St. Croix	6	0	0%
Totals	100	11	11%

There were 41 otters registered with the Tribal CITES program in the 2011 - 2012 harvest season (Table 6). The 26 otters from off-reservation represents 35% of the 73 otters harvested off-reservation. There were 5 otters harvested on reservation which were tagged with CITES tags by GLIFWC wardens (included in this total but not elsewhere in this report).

Table 6. Summary of otters registered with the Tribal CITES program for the 2011- 2012 harvest season.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Totals
Bad River	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	10	2	12
Lac du Flambeau	0	0	0
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	1	2
Red Cliff	0	0	0
St. Croix	1	1	2
Warden Registration	13	12	25
Totals	25	16	41

Table 7. Off-reservation treaty otter harvest reported by deer management unit for the 2011 - 2012 season in Wisconsin.

Deer Management Unit	Males	Females	Unknown	Totals
3	1	1		2
4	2	0	2	4
8	8	5	0	13
10	2	6	0	8
11	10	9	1	20
13	1	1	0	2
17	1	0	0	1
18	12	5	0	17
22	1	0	0	1
31	3	0	0	3
42	1	0	0	1
43	0	1	0	1
Totals	42	28	3	73

Table 8. Off-reservation treaty otter harvest as reported by county for the 2010 - 2011 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Unknown	Totals
Barron	1	0	0	1
Bayfield	1	1	0	2
Burnett	20	20	1	41
Douglas	2	0	2	4
Langlade	1	1	0	2
Oneida	3	0	0	3
Rusk	3	0	0	3
Sawyer	11	6	0	17
Total	42	28	3	73

Minnesota

There was one otter registered at the St. Croix Station. This male otter was harvested from permit area 159 in Pine County.

BOBCAT HARVEST

Wisconsin

The bobcat hunting season opened on September 7, 2011 while the bobcat trapping season opened on October 1, 2011. Both seasons closed on March 31, 2012. Harvest results are presented for both seasons combined because method of harvest was not collected at registration. There were 77 bobcats harvested during the 2011 - 2012 off-reservation treaty harvest seasons (Tables 9a, 10 and 11). This was an increase of 35 bobcats from the 2010 - 2011 off-reservation bobcat harvest (Table 1).

Table 9a. Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest as reported by registration station for the 2011 - 2012 season in Wisconsin.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Total
Bad River	0	0	0
Fond du Lac	6	6	12
Lac Courte Oreilles	12	6	18
Lac du Flambeau	3	0	3
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	4	0	4
Red Cliff	0	0	0
St. Croix	7	8	15
Warden Registration	15	10	25
Total	47	30	77

There were 192 tribal members who obtained bobcat harvesting permits during the 2011 - 2012 bobcat season and 25 (13%) of these members were successful (Table 9b). Most bobcat harvesters were from Red Cliff followed by Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO). Most successful harvesters came from LCO.

Table 9b. The number of bobcat harvesters and the number of successful bobcat harvesters during the 2011 - 2012 bobcat seasons (both hunting and trapping).

Tribe of Enrollment	Bobcat Harvesters	Successful Harvesters	Percent Successful
Bad River	33	3	9%
Lac Courte Oreilles	67	11	16%
Lac du Flambeau	10	1	10%
Mille Lacs	0	0	--
Mole Lake	11	3	27%
Red Cliff	70	7	10%
St. Croix	1	0	0%
Totals	192	25	13%

There were 31 bobcats tagged with Tribal CITES tags in 2011 - 2012 (Table 10). All but 3 of these were harvested off-reservation and this represents 36% of the registered off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest.

Table 10. Summary of bobcats registered with the Tribal CITES program for the 2011 - 2012 harvest season.

Registration Station	Males	Females	Total
Bad River	0	0	0
Fond du Lac	0	1	1
Lac Courte Oreilles	2	2	4
Lac du Flambeau	1	0	1
Mille Lacs	0	0	0
Mole Lake	0	0	0
Red Cliff	0	0	0
St. Croix	0	0	0
In Field	14	11	25
Total	17	14	31

Table 11. Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest reported by deer management unit for the 2011 - 2012 season in Wisconsin.

Deer Management Unit	Males	Females	Total
1	4	4	8
2	1	1	2
3	2	4	6
4	4	4	8
6	2	0	2
10	1	4	5
11	1	2	3
13	5	2	7
15	2	2	4
17	4	2	6
18	6	4	10
22	2	0	2
31	4	0	4
38	2	0	2
40	1	0	1
43	1	0	1
52	3	0	3
Unknown	2	1	3
Total	47	30	77

Table 12. Off-reservation treaty bobcat harvest as reported by county for the 2011 - 2012 season in Wisconsin.

County	Males	Females	Total
Barron	2	0	2
Bayfield	4	5	9
Burnett	2	5	7
Douglas	10	10	20
Forest	1	0	1
Langlade	1	0	1
Lincoln	5	0	5
Oneida	6	0	6
Rusk	0	1	1
Sawyer	14	7	21
Washburn	2	2	4
Totals	47	30	77

Minnesota

No bobcats were harvested in 1837 Minnesota Ceded Territory.

Literature Cited

Schrage, M. 2011. 2011 Wildlife harvest record for the Fond du Lac Reservation and ceded territories. Fond du Lac Resource Management Division, Cloquet MN 12 pp.