



**Results of the 2018-19 Off-Reservation *Ojiig*
(fisher), *Waabizheshi* (marten), *Nigig* (otter) and
Gidagaa- bizhiw (bobcat) Harvest in the 1836, 1837,
and 1842 Ceded Territories of Michigan,
Minnesota, and Wisconsin**

by

Allie Carl
Wildlife Biologist

and

Miles Falck
Wildlife Section Leader

Administrative Report 23-02
October 2023

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
Biological Services Division PO Box 9
Odanah, WI 54861

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
REGULATIONS AND ANNUAL SUMMARY	5
<i>OJIIG</i> (FISHER)	8
<i>WAABIZHESHI</i> (MARTEN)	12
<i>NIGIG</i> (OTTER)	15
<i>GIDAGAA-BIZHIW</i> (BOBCAT)	19
REFERENCES	23

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Harvest summary for off-reservation tribal furbearer seasons 2009-10 through 2018-19.	7
Table 2 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal <i>ojiig</i> season by registration station and sex.	8
Table 3 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal <i>ojiig</i> season by state, county, and sex. ...	9
Table 4 Number of successful harvesters and the number of <i>ojiigag</i> they harvested off- reservation during the 2018-19 tribal <i>ojiig</i> season.	11
Table 5 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal <i>waabizheshi</i> season by county and sex	12
Table 6 Number of successful harvesters and the number of <i>waabizheshiwag</i> they harvested off-reservation during the 2018-19 tribal <i>waabizheshi</i> season.	14
Table 7 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal <i>nigig</i> season by registration station and sex.	15
Table 8 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal <i>nigig</i> season by state, county, and sex..	16
Table 9 Number of successful harvesters and the number of <i>nigigwag</i> they harvested off- reservation during the 2018-19 tribal <i>nigig</i> season.....	18
Table 10 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal <i>gidagaa-bizhiw</i> season by registration station and sex.....	19
Table 11 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal <i>gidagaa-bizhiw</i> season by state, county, and sex.	20
Table 12 Number of successful harvesters and the number of <i>gidagaa-bizhiwag</i> they harvested off-reservation during the 2018-19 tribal <i>gidagaa-bizhiw</i> season.	22

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Location of ceded territories and GLIFWC member tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.	4
Figure 2 Harvest summary for off-reservation tribal furbearer seasons 2009-10 through 2018-19.	6
Figure 3 Distribution of <i>ojiig</i> harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal <i>ojiig</i> season.	10
Figure 4 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple <i>ojiigag</i> , and average number of <i>ojiigag</i> registered per harvester. <i>Ojiigag</i> registered at Bay Mills were included beginning in 2011.	11
Figure 5 Distribution of <i>waabizheshi</i> harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal <i>waabizheshi</i> season.	13
Figure 6 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple <i>waabizheshiwag</i> , and average number of <i>waabizheshiwag</i> registered per harvester.	14
Figure 7 Distribution of <i>nigig</i> harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal <i>nigig</i> season.	17
Figure 8 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple <i>nigigwag</i> , and average number of <i>nigigwag</i> registered per harvester. <i>Nigigwag</i> registered at Bay Mills were included beginning in 2011.	18
Figure 9 Distribution of <i>gidagaa-bizhiw</i> harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal <i>gidagaa-bizhiw</i> season.	21
Figure 10 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple <i>gidagaa-bizhiwag</i> , and average number of <i>gidagaa-bizhiwag</i> registered per harvester. <i>Gidagaa-bizhiwag</i> registered at Bay Mills were included beginning in 2011.	22

Results of the 2018-19 Off-Reservation *Ojiig* (fisher), *Waabizheshi* (marten), *Nigig* (otter) and *Gidagaa-bizhiw* (bobcat) Harvest in the 1836, 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the 2018-19 off-reservation harvest of *Ojiig* (fisher), *Waabizheshi* (marten), *Nigig* (otter) and *Gidagaa-bizhiw* (bobcat) in the 1836, 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes (Figure 1).

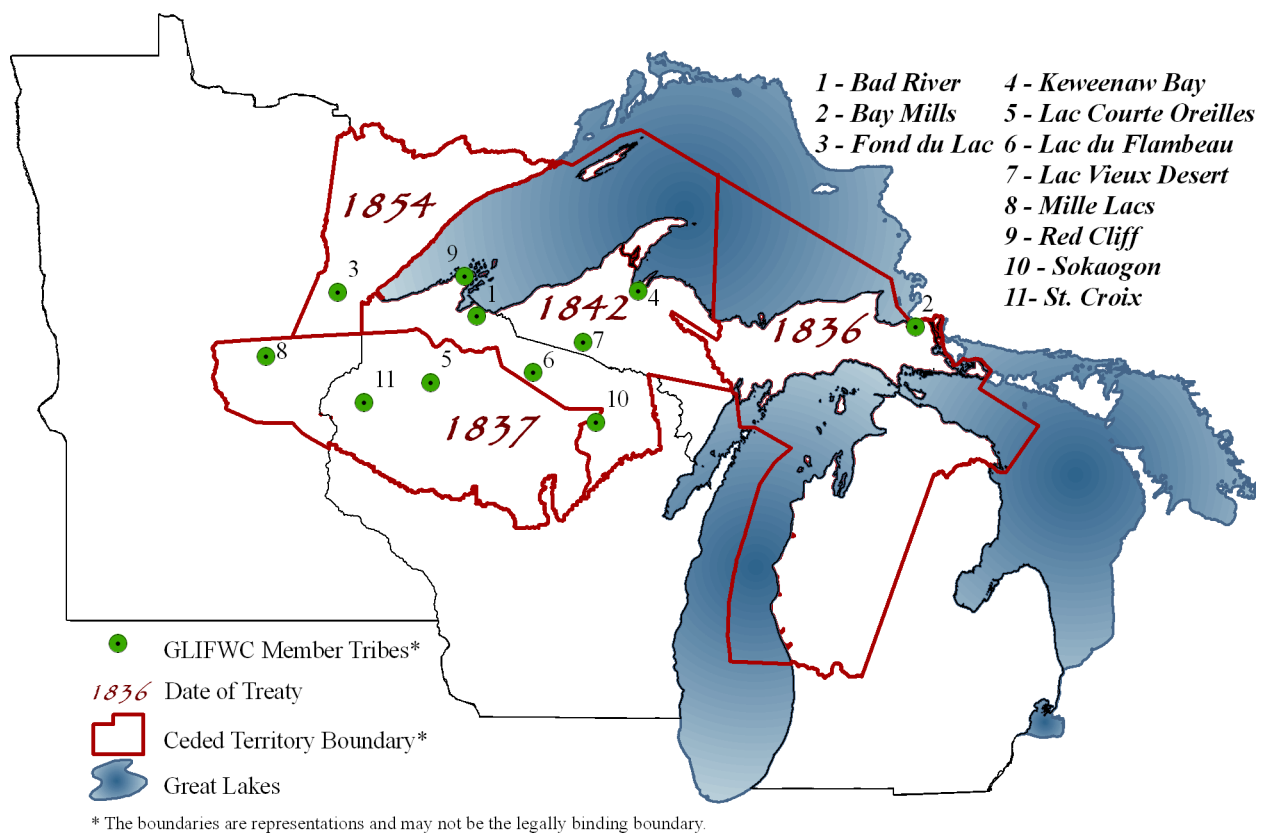


Figure 1 Location of ceded territories and GLIFWC member tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

REGULATIONS AND ANNUAL SUMMARY

Michigan

1836 Ceded Territory – In the 1836 ceded territory in Michigan, tribal harvest regulations were enacted to be consistent with the 2007 Inland Consent Decree (*United States v. Michigan* (2007)) signed by five tribes and the State of Michigan. The Bay Mills Indian Community is the only GLIFWC member tribe that is signatory to the treaty of 1836 and the 2007 Inland Consent Decree.

Minnesota

In the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota, tribal harvest regulations were enacted to be consistent with *Minnesota v. Mille Lacs* (1999) and the wildlife management plans which have been developed by tribal and state officials following the Supreme Court’s affirmation of the tribes’ reserved rights. GLIFWC member tribes with treaty reserved rights in the 1837 ceded territory of Minnesota have enacted regulations at least as restrictive as the Model Off-Reservation Conservation Code for the 1837 Minnesota Ceded Territory (“Minnesota Model Code”).

In Minnesota, *ojiig*, *nigig*, *gidagaa-bizhiw*, and *waabizheshi* are regulated according to a threshold system. The annual harvest threshold is 25 for each *ojiig*, *nigig*, *gidagaa-bizhiw*, and *waabizheshi*. If tribal harvest remains below 25 for each species, then there is no need for a tribal quota. If a threshold is exceeded, then the tribes will need to establish a tribal quota for harvest in the following year for the species whose threshold was exceeded. Tribes can declare up to 50% of the harvestable surplus of the species in the Minnesota 1837 ceded territory.

Wisconsin

Tribal harvest regulations for the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories in Wisconsin were enacted to be consistent with the rulings and stipulations related to *Lac Courte Oreilles v. Voigt* (1983). GLIFWC member tribes with treaty reserved rights in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Wisconsin have adopted codes at least as restrictive as the Voigt Treaty Off-Reservation Conservation Code (“Voigt Model Code”). Currently, the Voigt Model Code can change through a technical amendment process, which allows for nearly automatic updates when state law, hunting, fishing, or harvesting regulations are liberalized. The Voigt Model Code can also be updated with more restrictive provisions as needed for conservation.

In Wisconsin, *ojiig*, *nigig*, and *gidagaa-bizhiw* harvests are regulated according to a threshold system. If tribal harvest remains below 15% of state harvest the previous year, there is no need for a tribal quota. If tribal harvest exceeds 15% of the state harvest, then tribes will need to declare harvest numbers up to 50% of the available harvest the following year. In 2018-19 tribal quotas were not required for *ojiigag*, *nigig*, or *gidagaa-bizhiw* in the ceded territories. *Waabizheshi* is tribally designated as an endangered species in Wisconsin, thus there was no season in Wisconsin.

CITES

The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) requires that all *nigigwag* and *gidagaa-bizhiwag* that are exported must be registered and tagged using a CITES tag. GLIFWC operates a furbearer export program on behalf of its member tribes (except Fond

du Lac) to provide CITES tags for *nigigwag* and *gidagaa-bizhiwag* harvested on or off-reservation that are to be exported. A summary of CITES tag dispensations is provided annually to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Harvest

Harvest data were collected at tribal registration stations. Tribal registration stations were located on each of GLIFWC's 11-member tribe's reservations in addition to the Mille Lacs Urban office in Minneapolis, MN. GLIFWC conservation wardens also registered harvest in the field. With the exception of permits issued by Fond du Lac and Keweenaw Bay, all tribal permits and harvest registrations were entered into GLIFWC's online permit system. Keweenaw Bay provided tribal off-reservation harvest data by county upon the season's closure. All figures and tables in this report reflect GLIFWC 11-member tribes' harvest except for Fond du Lac's harvest since they use their own reporting system. Fond du Lac' harvest data is reported by Schrage (2019). For historical data summaries, Bay Mills' registered harvest was included beginning in 2011.

Tribal members harvested a total of 65 *ojiigag*, 16 *nigigwag*, 32 *gidagaa-bizhiwag*, and 7 *waabizheshiwag* during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal furbearer season. Harvest trends for *ojiig*, *nigig*, *gidagaa-bizhiw*, and *waabizheshi* during the 2009-10 through 2018-19 seasons are illustrated in Figure 2. Table 1 provides harvest totals by species and season.

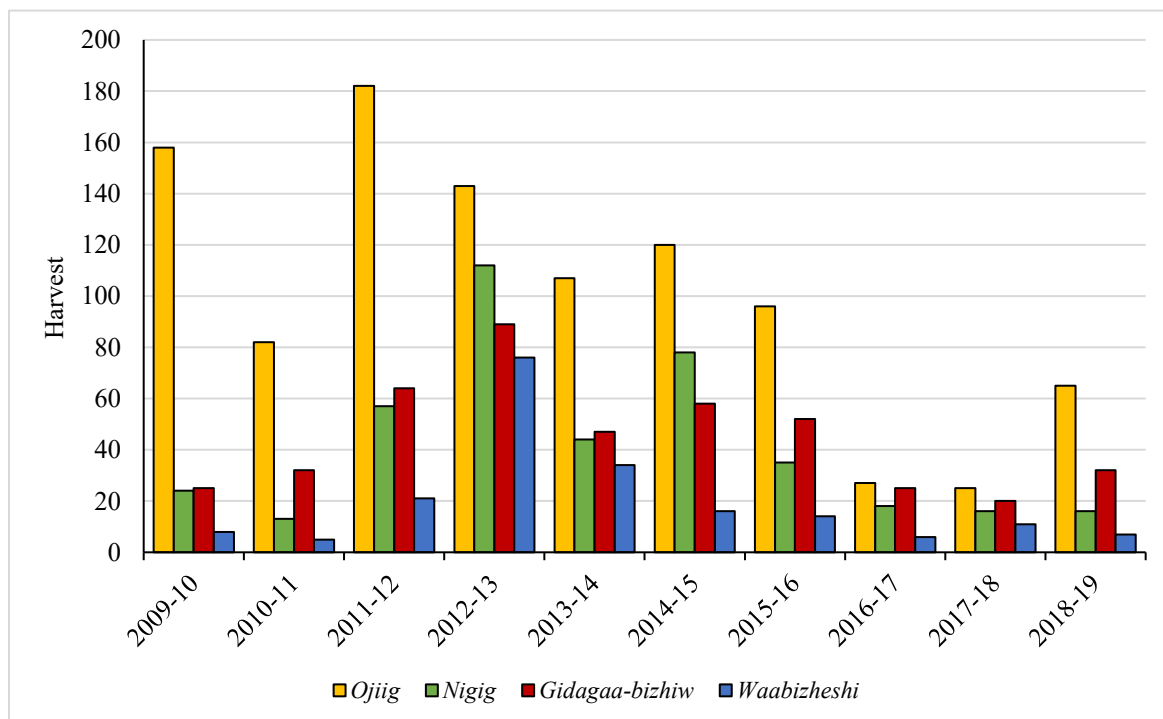


Figure 2 Harvest summary for off-reservation tribal furbearer seasons 2009-10 through 2018-19.

Table 1 Harvest summary for off-reservation tribal furbearer seasons 2009-10 through 2018-19.

Season	<i>Ojig</i>	<i>Nigig</i>	<i>Gidagaa-bizhiw</i>	<i>Waabizheshi</i>
2009-10	158	24	25	8
2010-11	82	13	32	5
2011-12	182	57	64	21
2012-13	143	112	89	76
2013-14	106	44	47	34
2014-15	120	78	58	16
2015-16	96	35	52	14
2016-17	27	18	25	6
2017-18	25	16	18	11
2018-19	65	16	32	7
Average	101	41	44	20

***OJIIG* (FISHER)**

A total of 65 *ojiigag* were harvested by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season (Tables 2 and 3, Figure 3). This total does not include Fond du Lac's *ojiig* harvest in Minnesota.

Michigan

There were no *ojiigag* harvested in the 1842 ceded territories of Michigan by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season.

Minnesota

Ojiigag harvested by Fond du Lac members in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota are reported by Schrage (2019) but not reported in the tables and figures below. Fond du Lac members harvested three *ojiigag* in the Minnesota 1837 ceded territory during the 2018-2019 off reservation tribal *ojiig* season. One *ojiig* was harvested from the 1837 ceded territories in Minnesota by GLIFWC's other member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season. The one *ojiig* was harvested in Pine County. Tribal harvest in Minnesota was below the threshold of 25.

Wisconsin

A total of 64 *ojiigag* were harvested in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season. Male *ojiigag* comprised 55% of the harvest. Harvest during the 2018-19 tribal *ojiig* season was distributed among five counties. Burnett County accounted for 83% of the harvest. Tribal harvest was below the 15% threshold of state harvest for the 2018-18 *ojiig* season in Wisconsin (Table 4).

Table 2 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season by registration station and sex.

Station	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Fond du Lac	3	1	0	4
Lac Courte Oreilles	3	0	0	3
Lac du Flambeau	1	1	0	2
Mille Lacs	0	0	1	1
St. Croix	28	27	0	55
Total	35	29	1	65

Table 3 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season by state, county, and sex.

State	County	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Minnesota	Pine	0	0	1	1
	Subtotal	0	0	1	1
Wisconsin	Bayfield	4	2	0	6
	Burnett	27	26	0	53
	Oneida	1	0	0	1
	Vilas	0	1	0	1
	Washburn	3	0	0	3
	Subtotal	35	29	0	64
Total		35	29	1	65

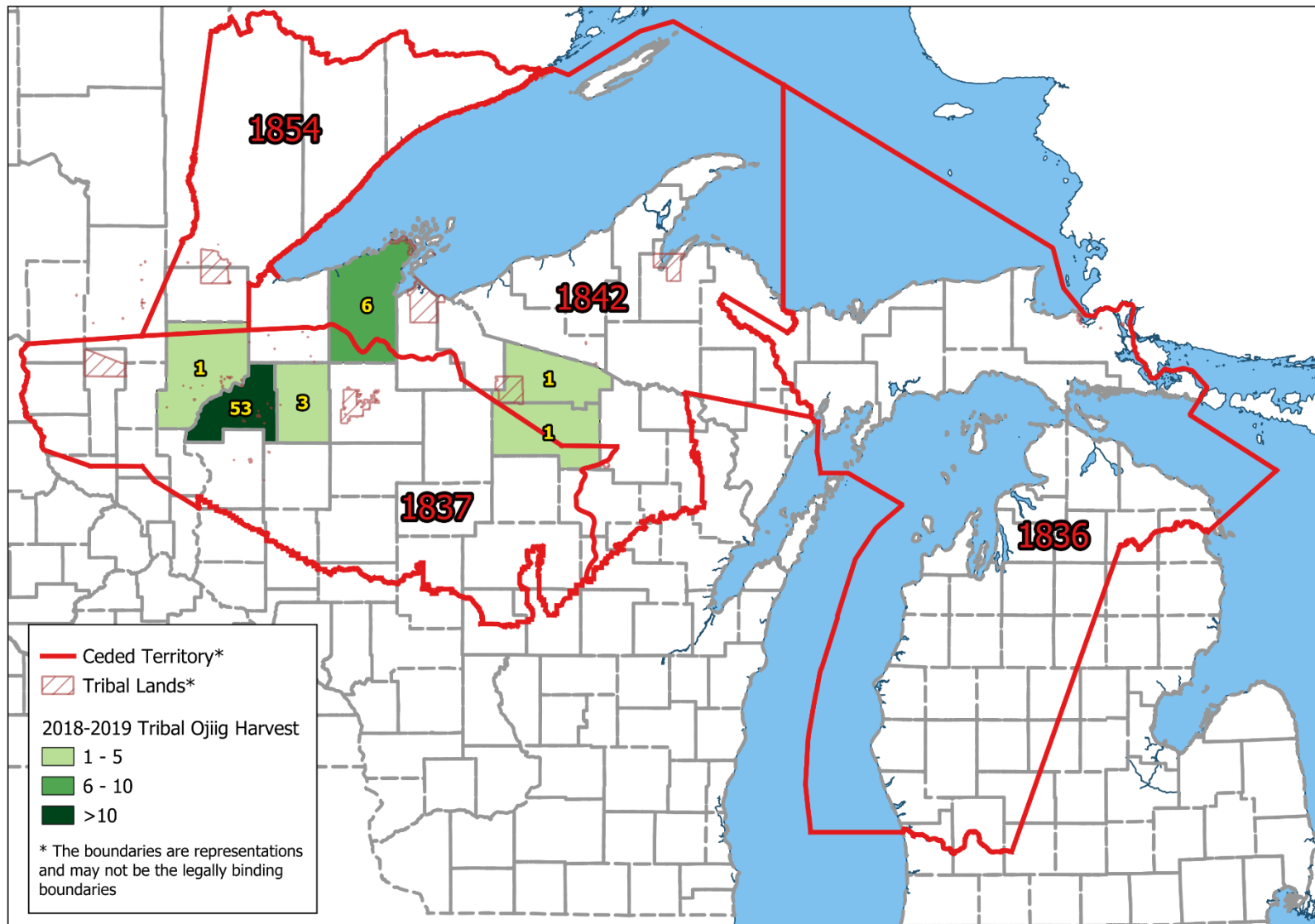


Figure 3 Distribution of *ojiig* harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season.

There were seven successful *ojiig* harvesters during the 2018-19 tribal *ojiig* season (Figure 4, Table 4). Six harvesters registered more than one *ojiig*. The average number of *ojiigag* registered per harvester was 9.3.

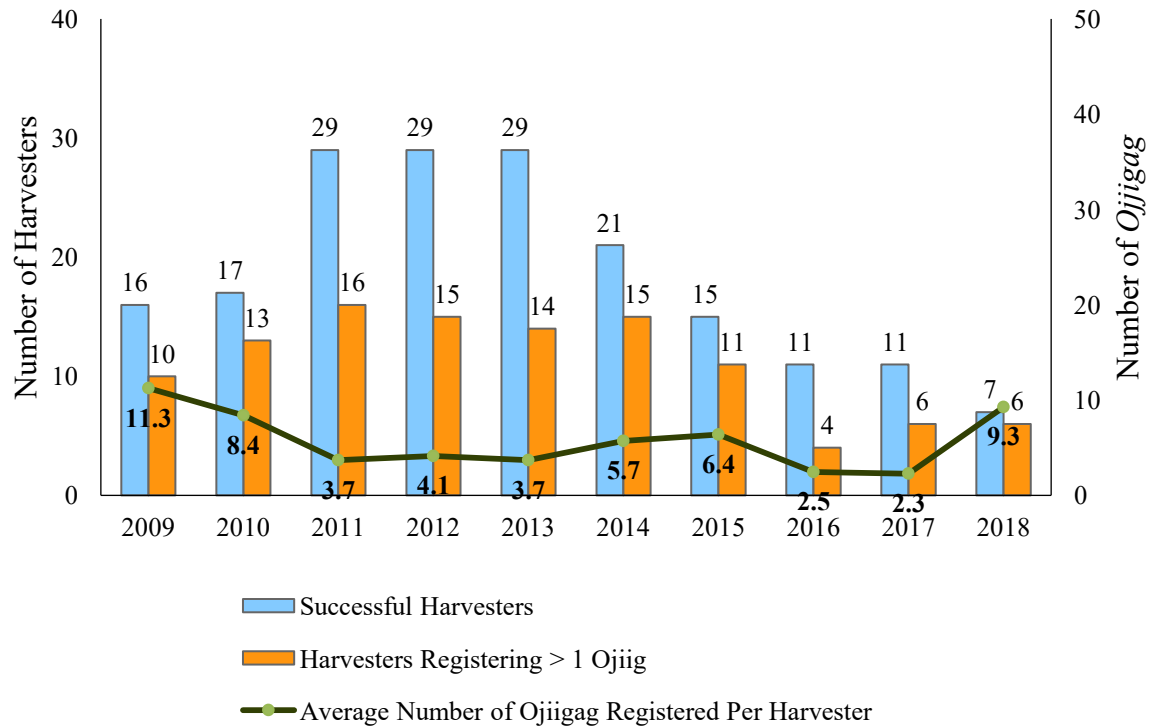


Figure 4 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple *ojiig*, and average number of *ojiigag* registered per harvester. *Ojiigag* registered at Bay Mills were included beginning in 2011.

Table 4 Number of successful harvesters and the number of *ojiigag* they harvested off-reservation during the 2018-19 tribal *ojiig* season.

<i>Ojiigag</i>	Harvesters	Percent of Harvesters	Total <i>Ojiigag</i>
1	1	14.30%	1
2	2	28.60%	4
3	1	14.30%	3
4	1	14.30%	4
11	1	14.30%	11
42	1	14.30%	42
Total	7	100%	65

WAABIZHESHI (MARTEN)

A total of seven *waabizheshiwag* were harvested by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season (Tables 5, Figure 5). This total does not include Fond du Lac's *waabizheshi* harvest in Minnesota.

Michigan

Seven *waabizheshiwag* were harvested in the 1842 ceded territories of Michigan by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation *waabizheshi* season. The *waabizheshiwag* were all harvested in Baraga County and registered at the Keweenaw Bay registration station.

Minnesota

Waabizheshiwag harvested by Fond du Lac members in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota are reported by Schrage (2019) and are not reported in tables and figures below. Fond du Lac members harvested three *waabizheshiwag* during the 2018-19 season. No *waabizheshiwag* were harvested from the 1837 ceded territories in Minnesota by GLIFWC's other member tribes. Tribal harvest in Minnesota was below the threshold of 25.

Wisconsin

Waabizheshi is tribally designated as an endangered species in Wisconsin, thus there was no harvest in Wisconsin.

Table 5 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season by county and sex

State	County	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Michigan	Baraga	0	0	7	7
Total		0	0	7	7

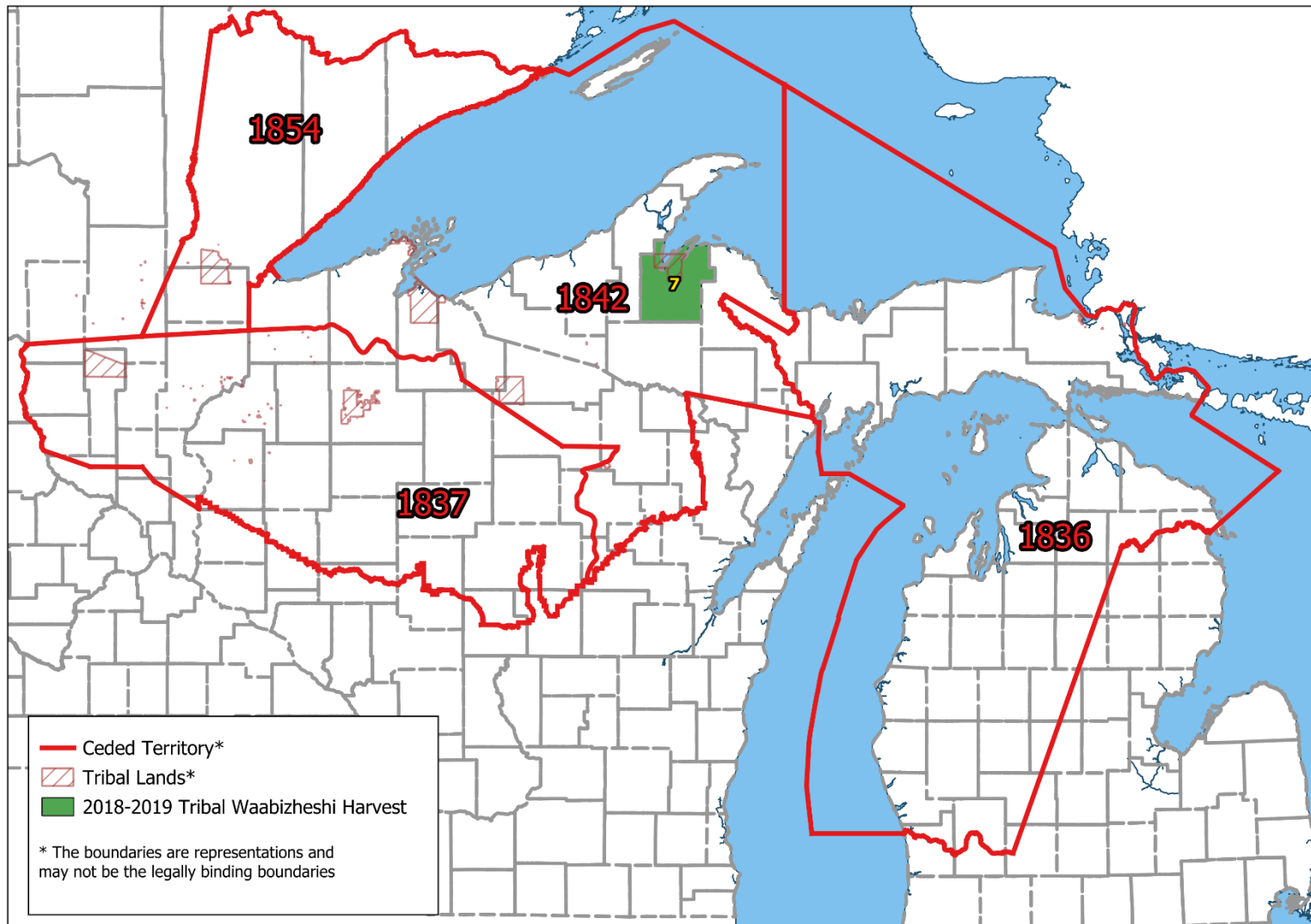


Figure 5 Distribution of *waabizheshi* harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season.

There was only one successful *waabizheshi* harvester during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season (Figure 6, Table 6) who harvested seven *waabizheshiwag*.

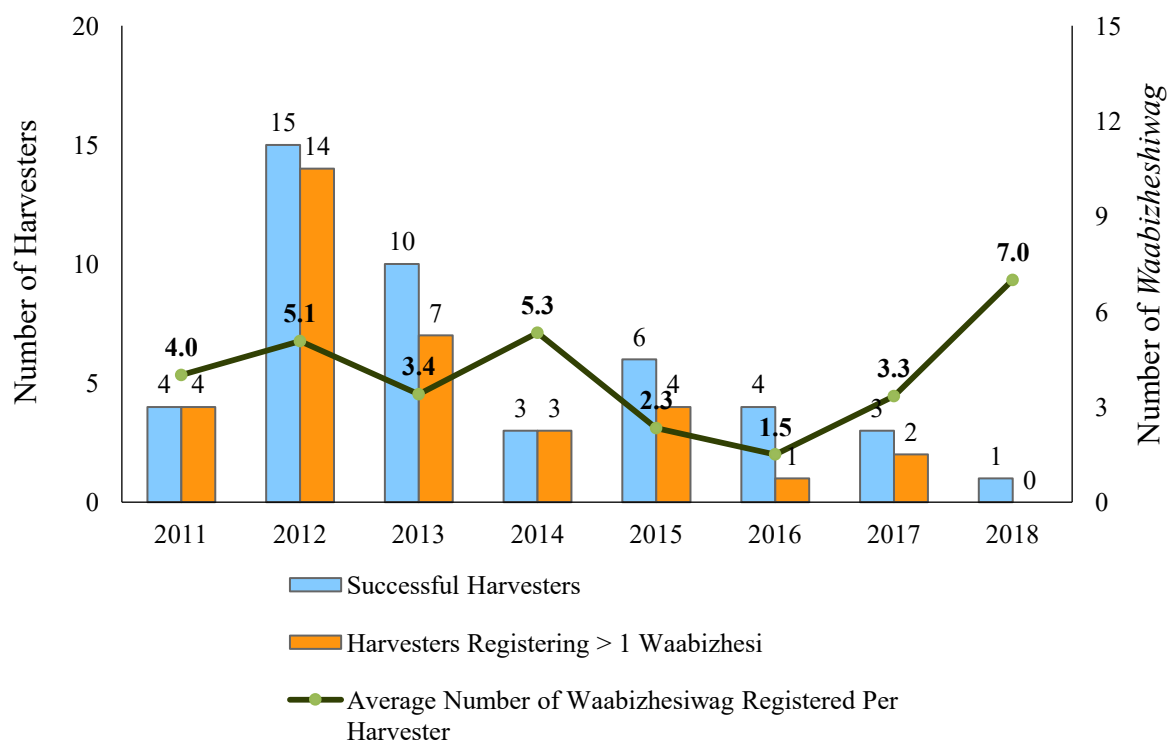


Figure 6 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple *waabizheshiwag*, and average number of *waabizheshiwag* registered per harvester.

Table 6 Number of successful harvesters and the number of *waabizheshiwag* they harvested off- reservation during the 2018-19 tribal *waabizheshi* season.

<i>Waabizheshiwag</i>	Harvesters	Percent of Harvesters	Total <i>Waabizheshiwag</i>
7	1	100%	7
Total	1	100%	7

***NIGIG* (OTTER)**

A total of 16 *nigigwag* were harvested by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season (Tables 7 and 8, Figure 7). This total does not include Fond du Lac's *nigig* harvest in Minnesota.

Michigan

No *nigigwag* were harvested from the 1842 ceded territories in Michigan by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season.

Minnesota

Nigigwag harvested by Fond du Lac members in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota are reported by Schrage (2019) and are not reported in tables and figures below. Fond du Lac members did not harvest any *nigigwag* during the 2018-2019 season. No *nigigwag* were harvested from the 1837 ceded territories in Minnesota by GLIFWC's other member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season. With no harvest reported in the Minnesota 1837 ceded territories, the total harvest was below the threshold of 25.

Wisconsin

A total of 16 *nigigwag* were harvested in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories in Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season. Male *nigigwag* comprised 69% of the harvest. Harvest during the 2018-19 tribal *nigig* season occurred in four counties with 50% of the harvest occurring in Burnett County. Tribal harvest was below the 15% threshold of state harvest for the 2018-19 *nigig* season in Wisconsin.

Table 7 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season by registration station and sex.

Station	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Fond du Lac	2	1	0	3
Lac Courte Oreilles	3	1	1	5
St. Croix	6	2	0	8
Total	11	4	1	16

Table 8 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season by state, county, and sex.

State	County	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Wisconsin	Bayfield	2	1	0	3
	Burnett	6	2	0	8
	Sawyer	1	0	0	1
	Washburn	2	1	1	4
Total		11	4	1	16

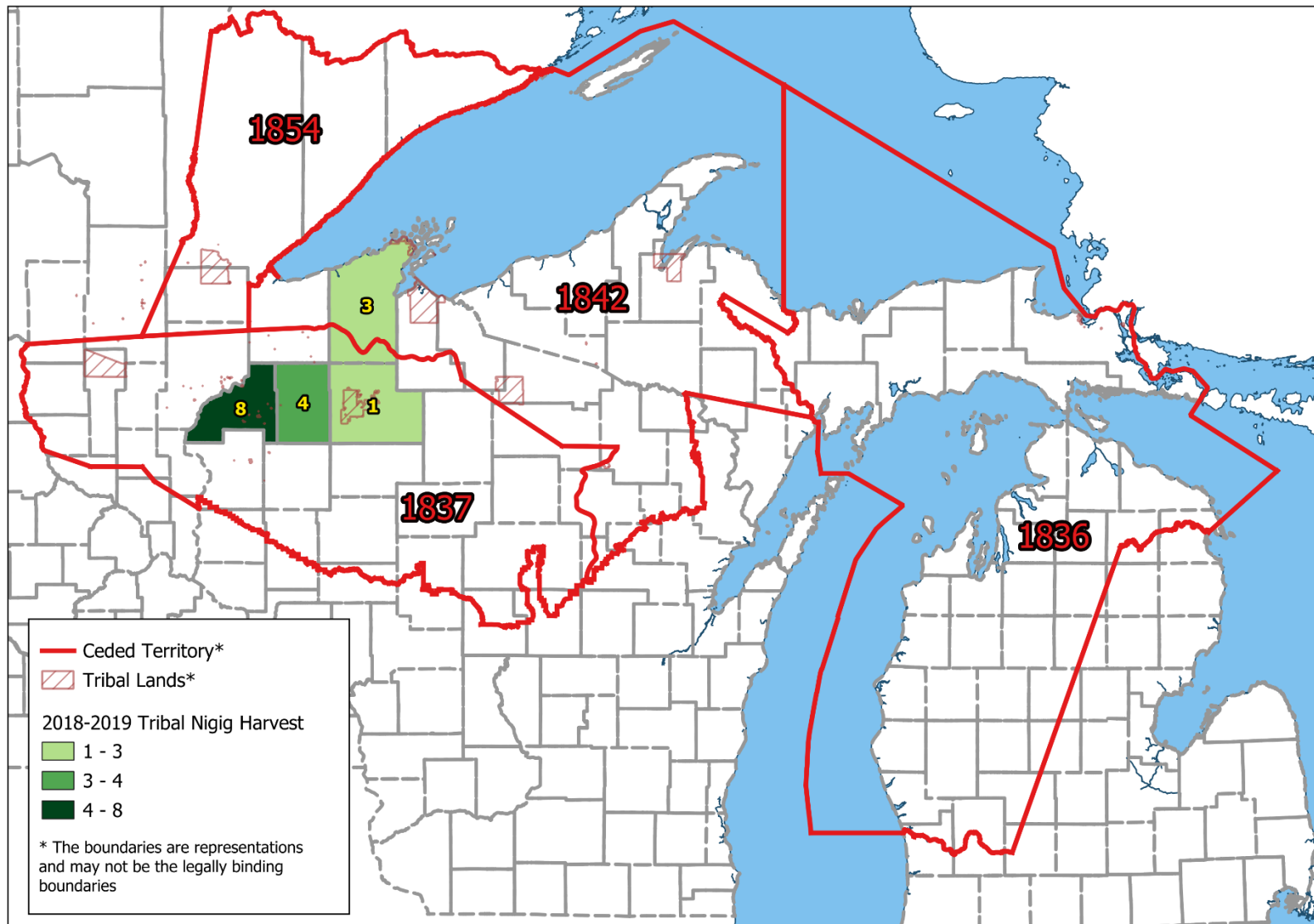


Figure 7 Distribution of *nigig* harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season.

There were four successful *nigig* harvesters during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season (Figure 8, Table 9). Three harvesters registered more than one *nigig*. The average number of *nigigwag* harvested was 4.0.

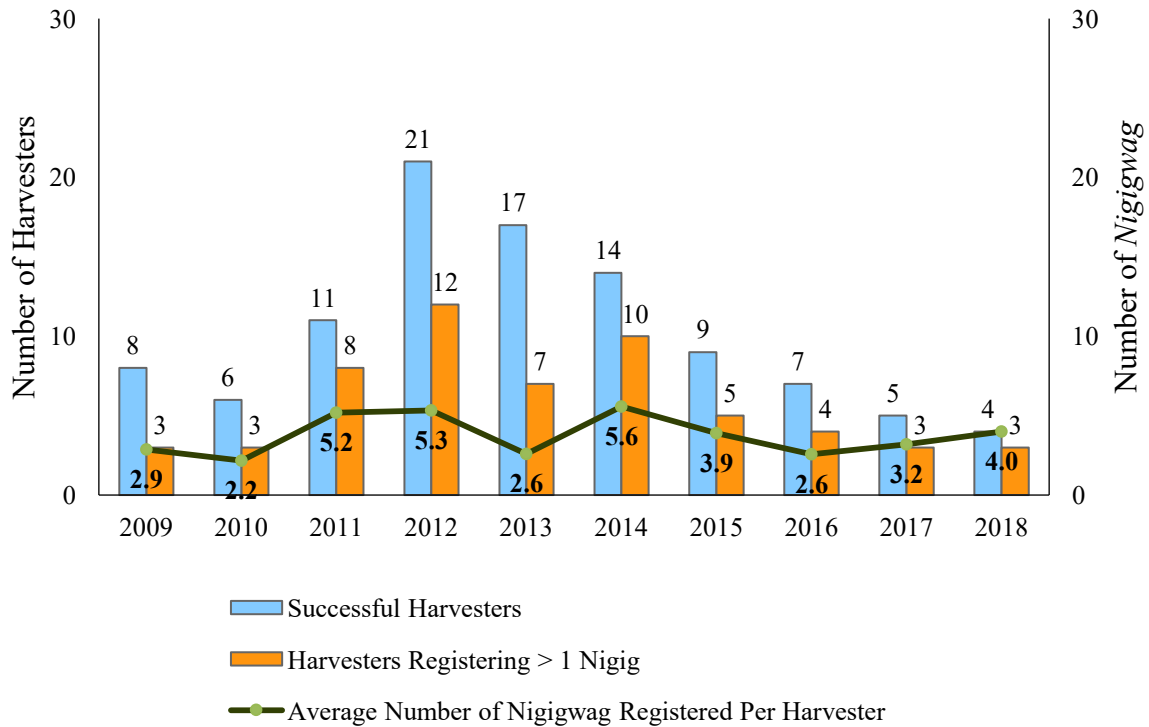


Figure 8 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple *nigigwag*, and average number of *nigigwag* registered per harvester. *Nigigwag* registered at Bay Mills were included beginning in 2011.

Table 9 Number of successful harvesters and the number of *nigigwag* they harvested off-reservation during the 2018-19 tribal *nigig* season.

<i>Nigigwag</i>	Harvesters	Percent of Harvesters	Total <i>Nigigwag</i>
1	1	25.0%	1
3	1	25.0%	3
4	1	25.0%	4
8	1	25.0%	8
Total	4	100%	16

***GIDAGAA-BIZHIW* (BOBCAT)**

A total of 32 *gidagaa-bizhiwag* were harvested by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal season (Tables 10 and 11, Figure 9). This total does not include Fond du Lac's *gidagaa-bizhiwag* harvest in Minnesota.

Michigan

No *gidagaa-bizhiwag* were harvested in the 1842 ceded territories in Michigan by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season.

Minnesota

Gidagaa-bizhiwag harvested by Fond du Lac members in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota are reported by Schrage (2019) and are not reported in tables and figures below. Fond du Lac members did not harvest any *gidagaa-bizhiwag* during the 2018-2019 season. No *gidagaa-bizhiwag* were harvested in the 1837 ceded territories in Minnesota by GLIFWC's other member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season.

Wisconsin

All 32 *gidagaa-bizhiwag* were harvested in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories in Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season. Male *gidagaa-bizhiwag* comprised 38% of the harvest. Harvest was distributed among nine counties. Burnett and Douglas Counties accounted for 50% of the harvest. Tribal harvest was below the 15% threshold of state harvest for the 2018-19 *gidagaa-bizhiw* season in Wisconsin.

Table 10 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season by registration station and sex.

Station	Male	Female	Total
Bad River	0	1	1
Fond du Lac	2	2	4
Lac Courte Oreilles	2	3	5
Lac du Flambeau	2	4	6
Mole Lake	2	0	2
Red Cliff	0	1	1
St. Croix	4	7	11
Warden Registration	0	2	2
Total	12	20	32

Table 11 Harvest summary for the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season by state, county, and sex.

State	County	Male	Female	Total
Wisconsin	Bayfield	0	3	3
	Burnett	4	7	11
	Chippewa	0	1	1
	Douglas	2	3	5
	Forest	2	0	2
	Oneida	1	3	4
	Sawyer	2	2	4
	Vilas	1	0	1
	Washburn	0	1	1
Total		12	20	32

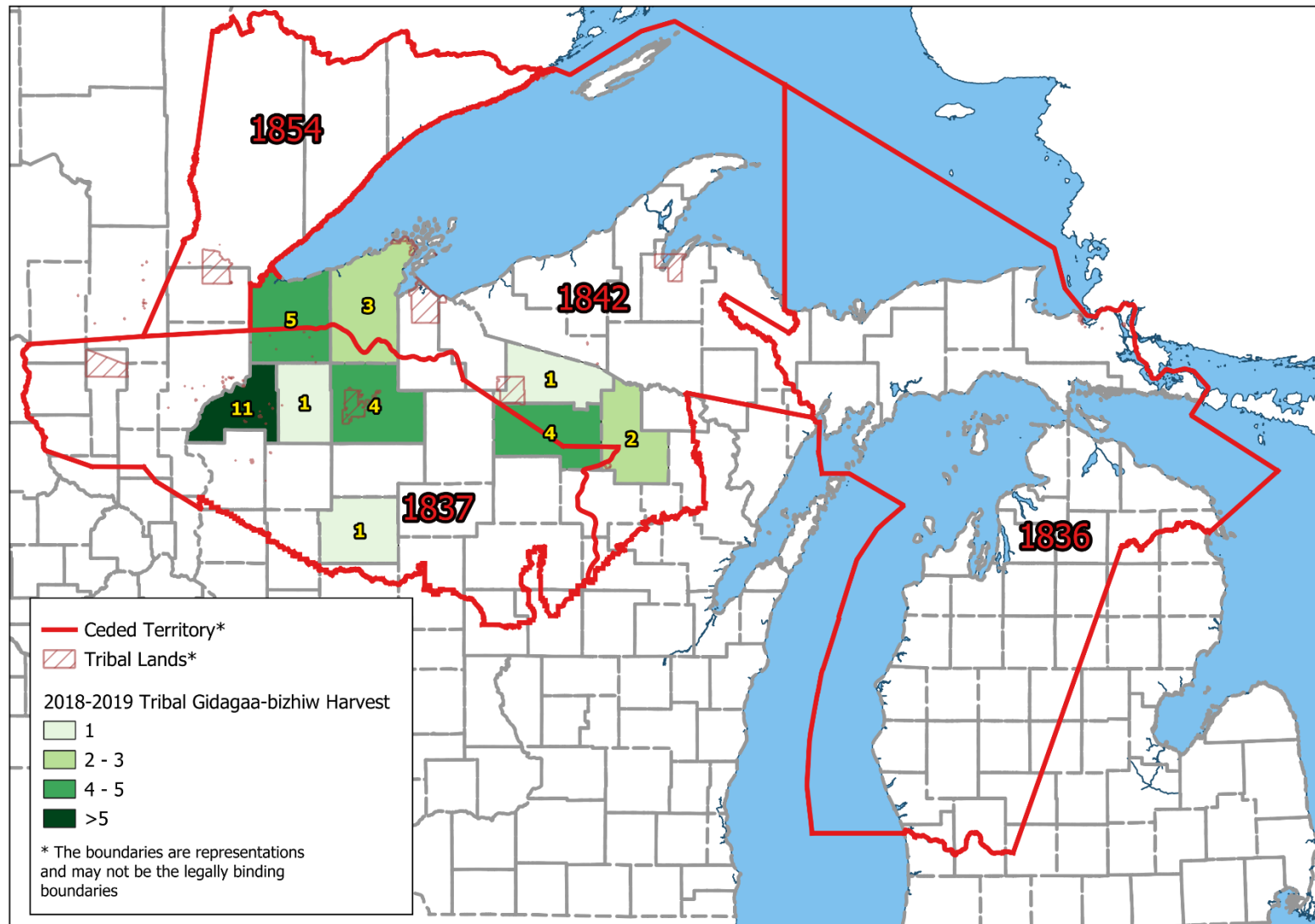


Figure 9 Distribution of *gidagaa-bizhiw* harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season.

There were 20 successful *gidagaa-bizhiw* harvesters during the 2018-19 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season (Figure 10, Table 12). Four harvesters registered more than one *gidagaa-bizhiw*. The average number of *gidagaa-bizhiw* harvested was 1.6.

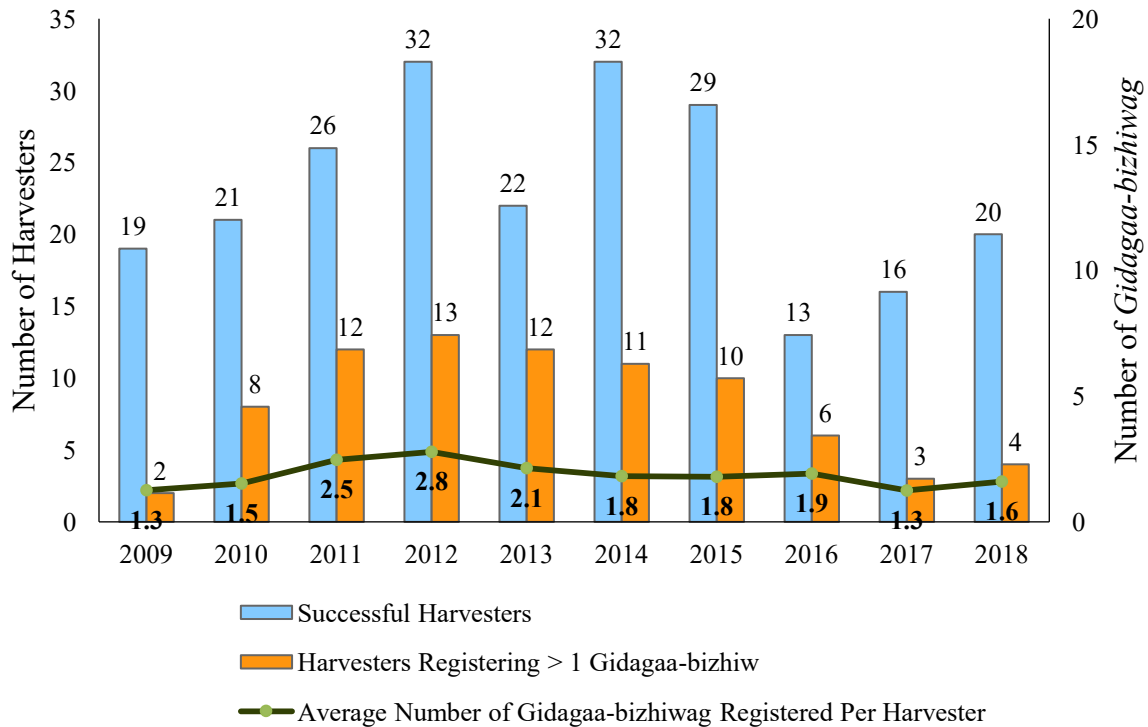


Figure 10 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple *gidagaa-bizhiw*, and average number of *gidagaa-bizhiw* registered per harvester. *Gidagaa-bizhiw* registered at Bay Mills were included beginning in 2011.

Table 12 Number of successful harvesters and the number of *gidagaa-bizhiw* they harvested off- reservation during the 2018-19 tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season.

<i>Gidagaa-bizhiw</i>	Harvesters	Percent of Harvesters	Total <i>Gidagaa-bizhiw</i>
1	16	80.0%	16
2	2	10.0%	4
4	1	5.0%	4
8	1	5.0%	8
Totals	20	100%	32

REFERENCES

- 2007 Inland Consent Decree, United States v. Michigan, No. 2:73 CV26, Slip Op. (W.D. Mich., Nov. 2007), *available at* http://glifwc.org/Recognition_Affirmation/MI36ConsentDecree.pdf
- Emery, J. “Pelt Registrations 2018-2022.” Email to M. Falck. August 9, 2022.
- Lac Courte Oreilles v. Voigt, 700 F2d 341 (7th Cir.), cert denied, 464 U.S. 805 (1983), *available at* <https://openjurist.org/700/f2d/341/lac-courte-oreilles-band-of-lake-superior-chippewa-indians-v-p-voigt-united-states>
- Minnesota v. Mille Lacs, 119 S.Ct. 1187 (1999), *available at* <https://openjurist.org/526/us/172/minnesota-et-al-v-mille-lacs-band-of-chippewa-indians-et-al>
- Model Off-Reservation Conservation Code for the 1837 Minnesota Ceded Territory, *available at* [https://cms9files.revize.com/redcliffband/Document Center/Government/Code of Laws/MN 1837 Conservation Code.hyperlinks. 2017.pdf](https://cms9files.revize.com/redcliffband/Document%20Center/Government/Code%20of%20Laws/MN%201837%20Conservation%20Code.hyperlinks.2017.pdf)
- Schrage, M. *2018 Wildlife Harvest Record for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa*. Fond du Lac Resource Management Division, December 2019, *available at* <https://www.fdlrez.com/rm/downloads/2018FDLWildlifeHarvestReport.pdf>
- Voigt Treaty Off-Reservation Conservation Code (Revised 12/2020), *available at* <https://data.glifwc.org/download/archive.bio/Model.Off-Reservation.Conservation.Code.1837.1842.CT.Wisconsin.20230908.pdf>