



**Results of the 2019-20 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**

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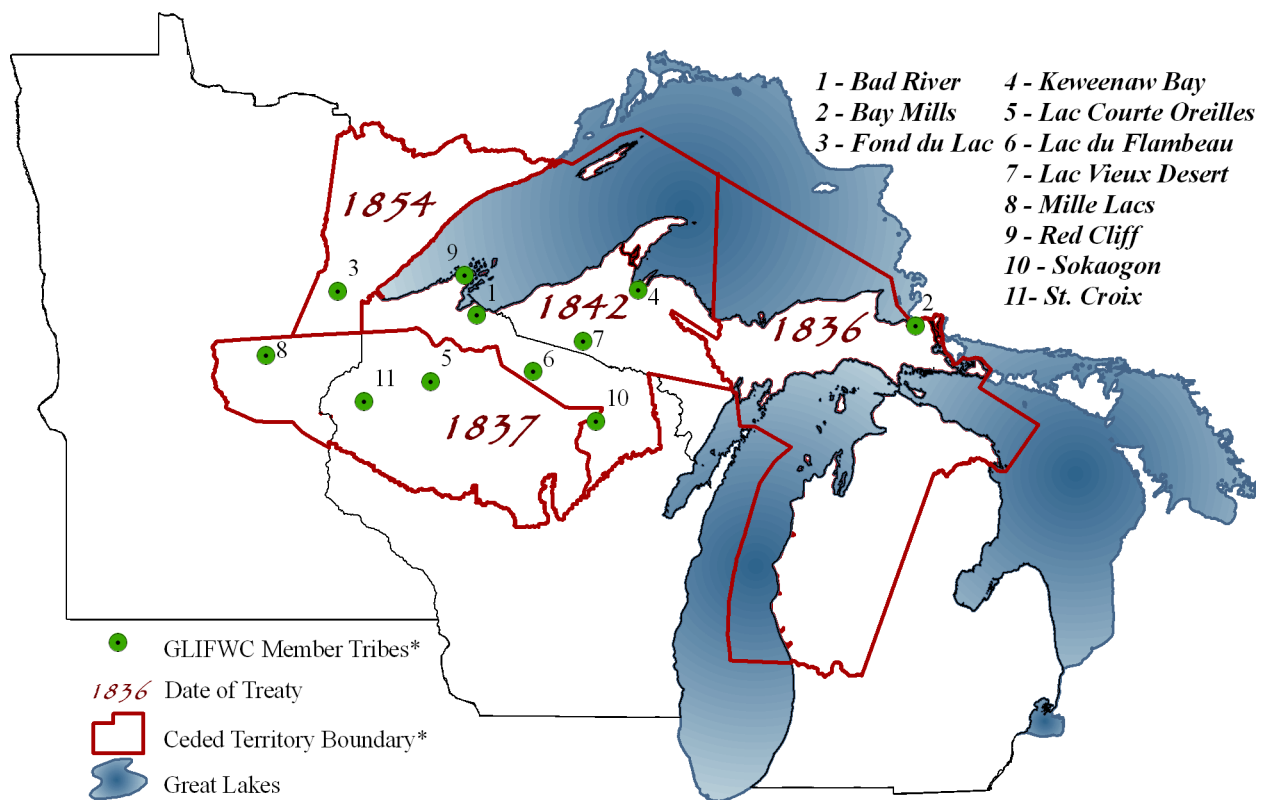
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Results of the 2019-20 Off-Reservation *Ojiig* (fisher), *Waabizheshi* (marten), *Nigig* (otter), and *Gidagaa-bizhiw* (bobcat) Harvest in the 1836, 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the 2019-20 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).



* The boundaries are representations and may not be the legally binding boundary.

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 2019-20 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. Except for 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 in Minnesota since they use their own reporting system. Fond du Lac' harvest data is reported by [Schrage \(2020\)](#). For historical data summaries, Bay Mills' registered harvest was included beginning in 2011.

Tribal members harvested a total of 19 *ojiigag*, 2 *nigigwag*, 7 *gidagaa-bizhiwag*, and 4 *waabizheshiwag* during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal furbearer season. Harvest trends for *ojiig*, *nigig*, *gidagaa-bizhiw*, and *waabizheshi* during the 2010-11 through 2019-20 seasons are illustrated in Figure 2. Table 1 provides harvest totals by species and season.

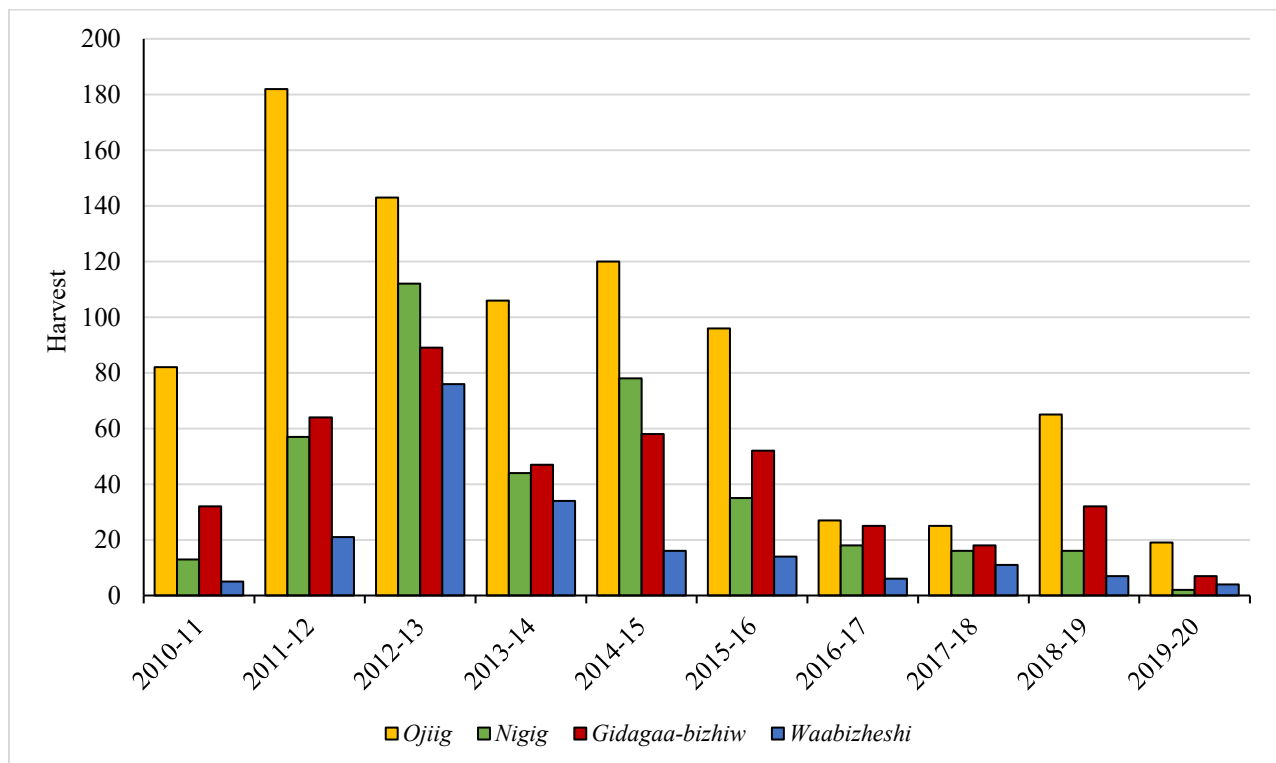


Figure 2 Harvest summary for off-reservation tribal furbearer seasons 2010-11 through 2019-20.

Table 1 Harvest summary for off-reservation tribal furbearer seasons 2010-11 through 2019-20.

Season	<i>Ojig</i>	<i>Nigig</i>	<i>Gidagaa-bizhiw</i>	<i>Waabizheshi</i>
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
2019-20	19	2	7	4
Average	87	39	42	19

***OJIIG* (FISHER)**

A total of 19 *ojiigag* were harvested by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 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

A total of two *ojiigag* were harvested in the 1842 ceded territories of Michigan by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season. The two *ojiigag* were harvested in Marquette County.

Minnesota

Ojiigag harvested by Fond du Lac members in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota are reported by Schrage (2020) but not reported in the tables and figures below. Fond du Lac members did not harvest *ojiigag* in the Minnesota 1837 ceded territory during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season. A total of 12 *ojiigag* were harvested from the 1837 ceded territories in Minnesota by GLIFWC's other member tribes. The 12 *ojiigag* were harvested in Chisago and Pine Counties. Tribal harvest in Minnesota was below the threshold of 25.

Wisconsin

A total of five *ojiigag* were harvested in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season. Male *ojiigag* comprised 60% of the harvest. Harvest during the 2019-20 tribal *ojiig* season was distributed among four counties: Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, and Langlade. Tribal harvest was below the 15% threshold of state harvest for the 2019-20 *ojiig* season in Wisconsin.

Table 2 Harvest summary for the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season by registration station and sex.

Station	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Fond du Lac	6	4	0	10
Keweenaw Bay	0	0	2	2
Mille Lacs	0	0	4	4
Mole Lake	1	0	0	1
St. Croix	1	0	0	1
Warden Registration	0	1	0	1
Total	8	5	6	19

Table 3 Harvest summary for the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season by state, county, and sex.

State	County	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Michigan	Marquette	0	0	2	2
	Subtotal	0	0	2	2
Minnesota	Chisago	5	3	0	8
	Pine	0	0	4	4
	Subtotal	5	3	4	12
Wisconsin	Bayfield	0	1	0	1
	Burnett	1	0	0	1
	Douglas	1	1	0	2
	Langlade	1	0	0	1
	Subtotal	3	2	0	5
Total		8	5	6	19

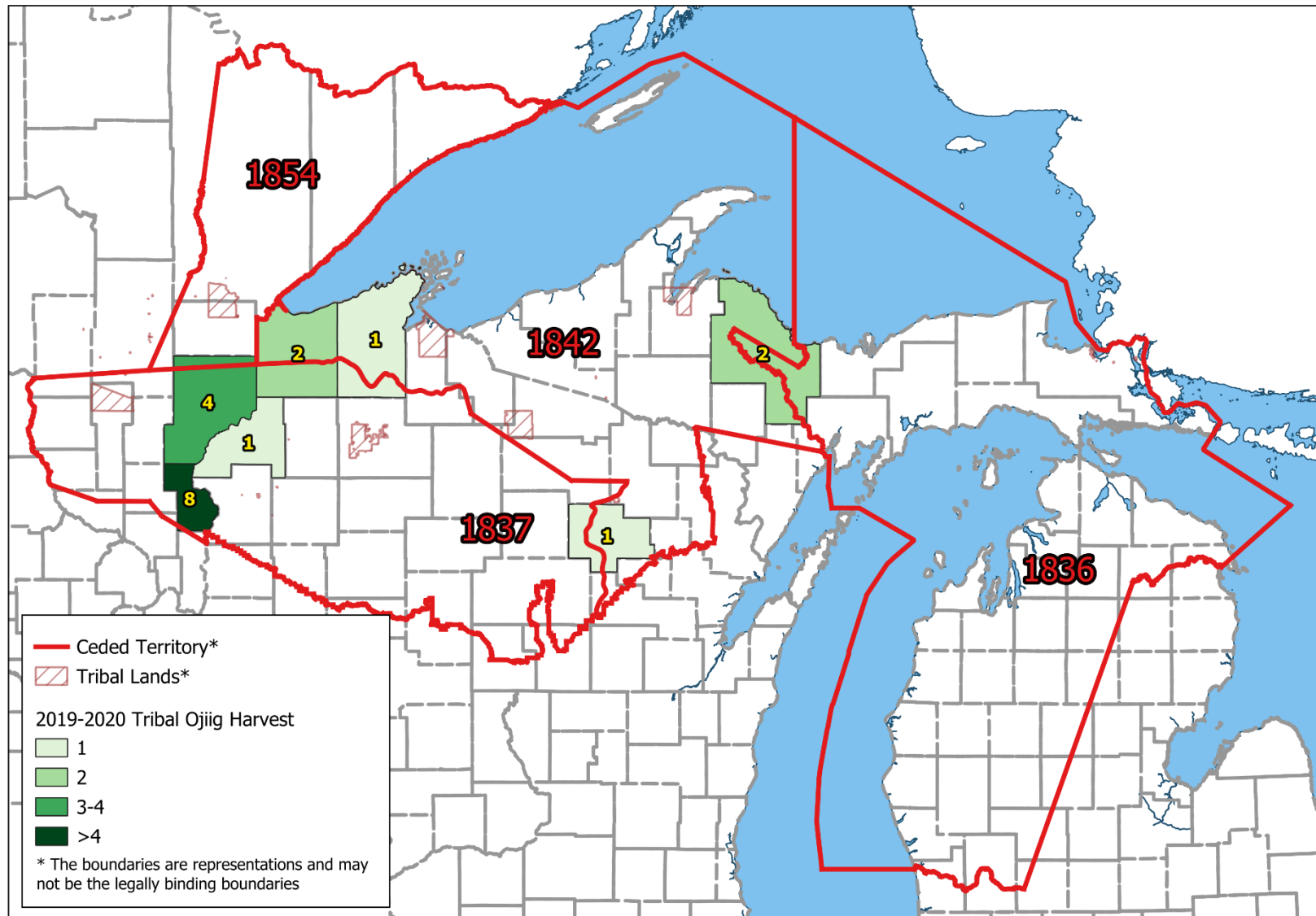


Figure 3 Distribution of *ojiig* harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season.

There were seven successful *ojiig* harvesters during the 2019-20 tribal *ojiig* season (Figure 4, Table 4). Four harvesters registered more than one *ojiig*. The average number of *ojiigag* registered per harvester was 2.7.

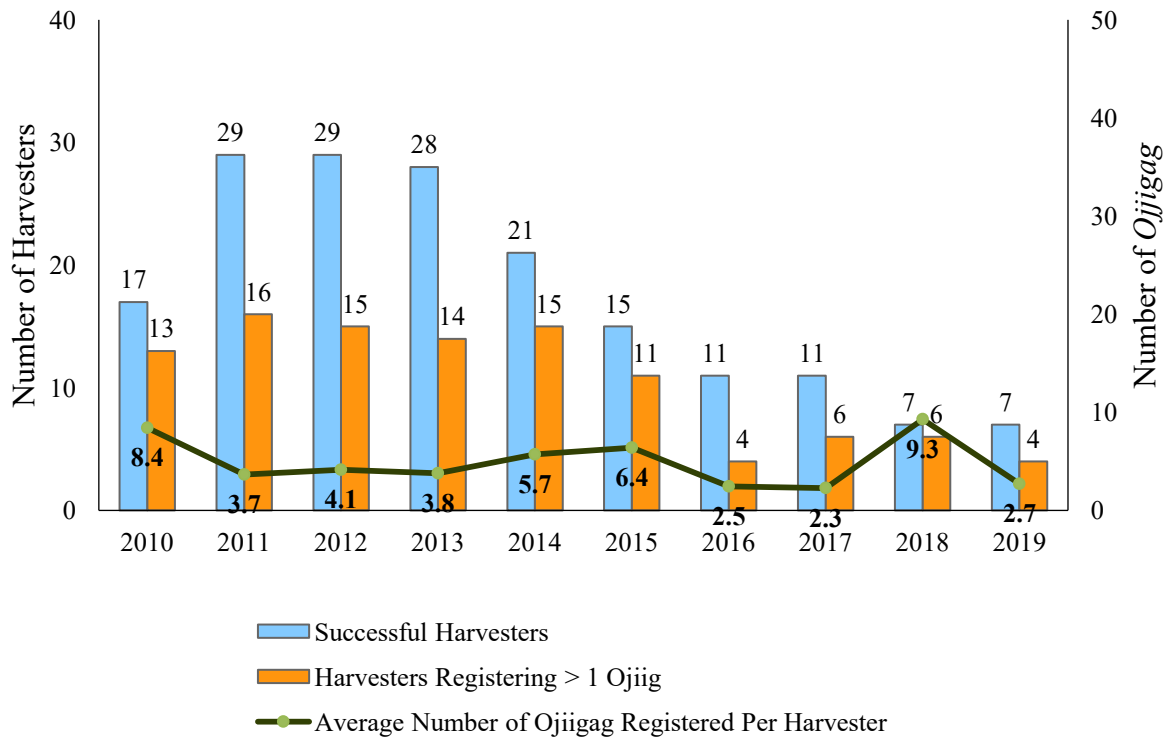


Figure 4 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple *ojiigag*, and average number of *ojiigag* registered per harvester. *Ojiigag* registered at Bay Mills were included beginning in 2011.

Table 4 Number of successful harvesters and the number of *ojiigag* they harvested off-reservation during the 2019-20 tribal *ojiig* season.

<i>Ojiigag</i>	Harvesters	Percent of Harvesters	Total <i>Ojiigag</i>
1	3	42.9%	3
2	2	28.6%	4
4	1	14.3%	4
8	1	14.3%	8
Total	7	100.0%	19

WAABIZHESHI (MARTEN)

A total of four *waabizheshiwag* were harvested by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off- reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season (Tables 5 and 6, Figure 5). This total does not include Fond du Lac's *waabizheshi* harvest in Minnesota.

Michigan

Two *waabizheshiwag* were harvested in the 1842 ceded territories of Michigan by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season. The *waabizheshiwag* were harvested in Houghton and Ontonagon Counties.

Minnesota

Waabizheshiwag harvested by Fond du Lac members in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota are reported by Schrage (2020) and are not reported in tables and figures below. Fond du Lac members did not harvest any *waabizheshiwag* during the 2019-20 season. Two *waabizheshiwag* were harvested from the 1837 ceded territories in Minnesota by GLIFWC's other member tribes. The two *waabizheshiwag* were harvested in Pine County. 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 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season by registration station and sex.

Station	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Keweenaw Bay	0	0	2	2
Mille Lacs	2	0	0	2
Total	2	0	2	4

Table 6 Harvest summary for the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season by county and sex.

State	County	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Michigan	Houghton	0	0	1	1
	Ontonagon	0	0	1	1
	Subtotal	0	0	2	2
Minnesota	Pine	2	0	0	2
	Subtotal	2	0	0	2
Total		2	0	2	4

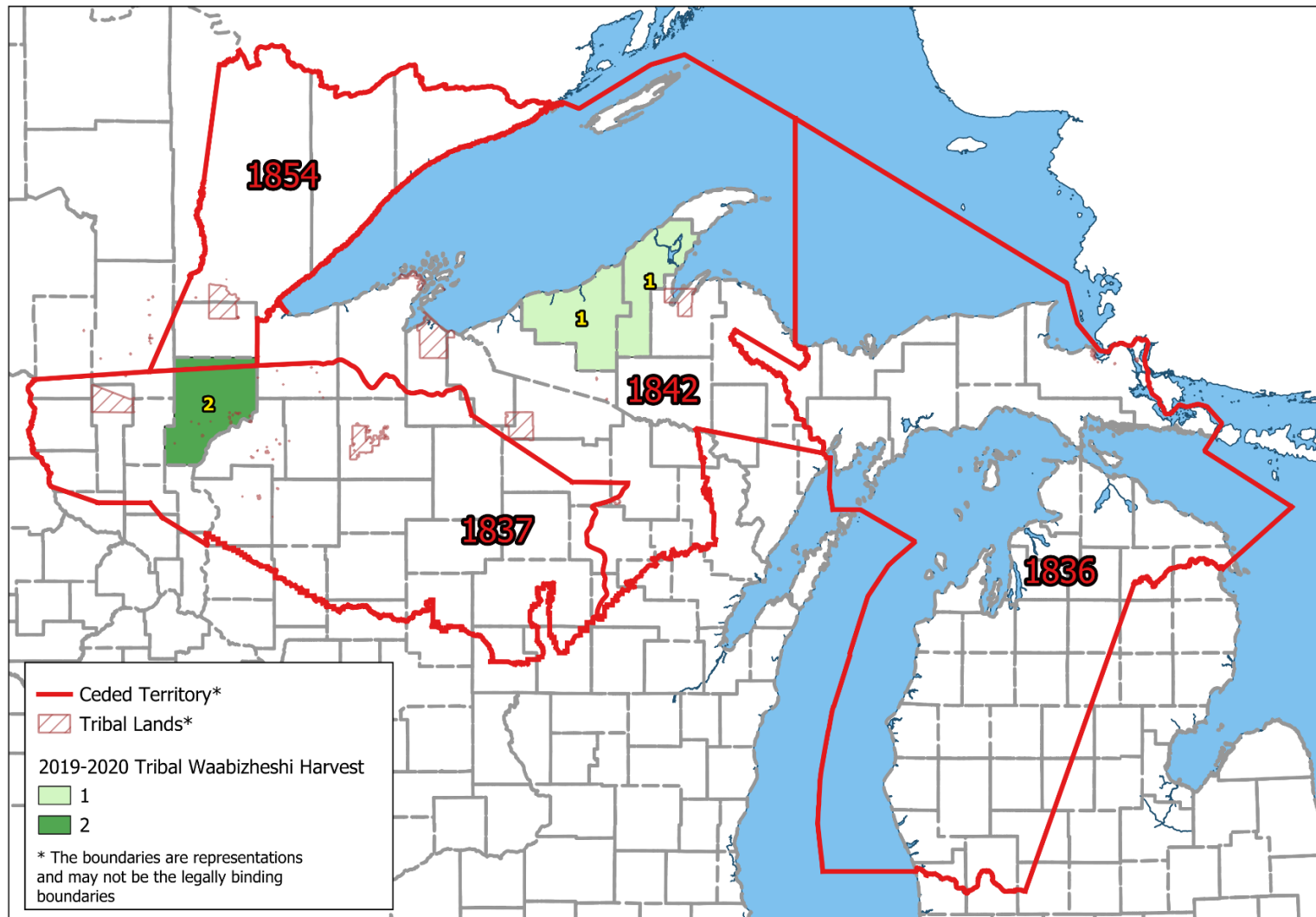


Figure 5 Distribution of waabizhesi harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *waabizhesi* season

There were two successful *waabizheshi* harvesters during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season (Figure 6, Table 7). Both harvesters registered more than one *waabizheshi*. The average number of *waabizheshiwag* harvested was 2.0.

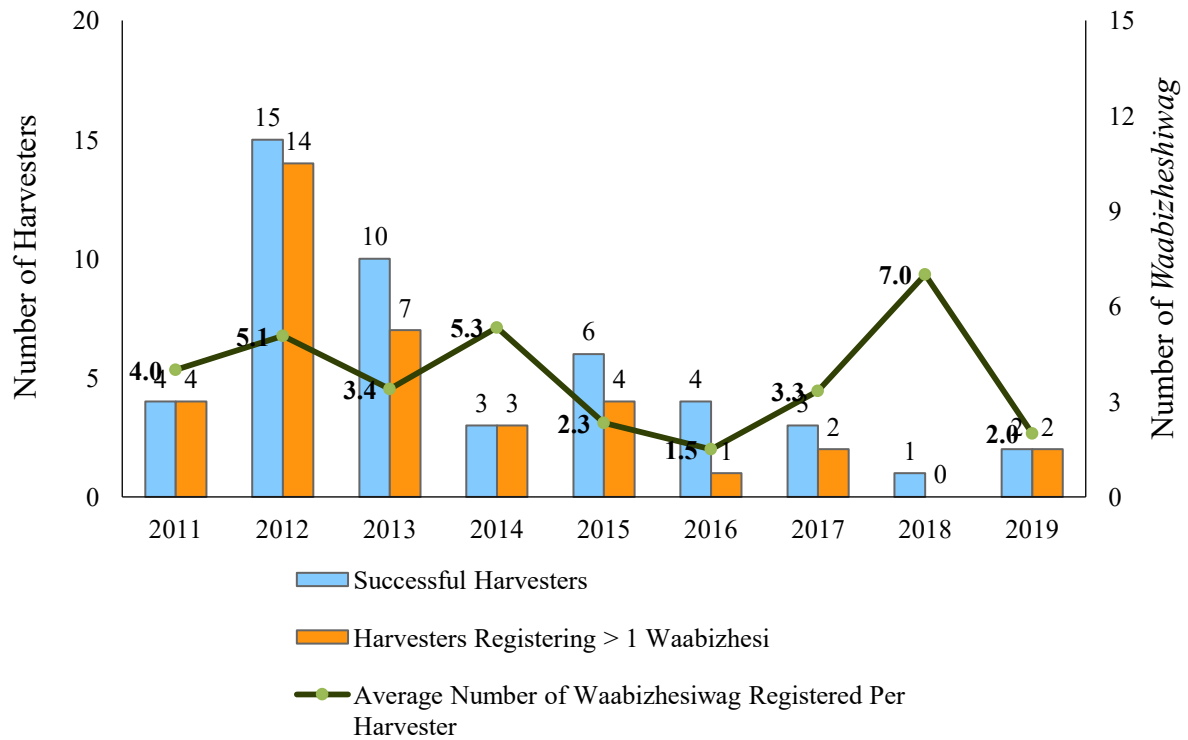


Figure 6 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple *waabizheshiwag*, and average number of *waabizheshiwag* registered per harvester.

Table 7 Number of successful harvesters and the number of *waabizheshiwag* they harvested off- reservation during the 2019-20 tribal *waabizheshi* season.

<i>Waabizheshiwag</i>	Harvesters	Percent of Harvesters	Total <i>Waabizheshiwag</i>
2	2	100%	4
Total	2	100%	4

***NIGIG* (OTTER)**

A total of two *nigigwag* were harvested by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season (Tables 8 and 9, Figure 7). This total does not include Fond du Lac's *nigig* harvest in Minnesota.

Michigan

No *nigig* were harvested from the 1842 ceded territories in Michigan by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season.

Minnesota

Nigigwag harvested by Fond du Lac members in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota are reported by Schrage (2020) and are not reported in tables and figures below. Fond du Lac members did not harvest any *nigigwag* during the 2019-20 season. No *nigigwag* were harvested from the 1837 ceded territories in Minnesota by GLIFWC's other member tribes during the 2019-20 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

Two *nigigwag* were harvested in the 1842 ceded territories in Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season. Male *nigigwag* comprised 100% of the harvest. Harvest during the 2019-20 tribal *nigig* season occurred in Forest County. Tribal harvest was below the 15% threshold of state harvest for the 2019-20 *nigig* season in Wisconsin.

Table 8 Harvest summary for the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season by registration station and sex.

Station	Male	Female	Total
Mole Lake	2	0	2
Total	2	0	2

Table 9 Harvest summary for the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season by state, county, and sex.

State	County	Male	Female	Total
Wisconsin	Forest	2	0	2
Total		2	0	2

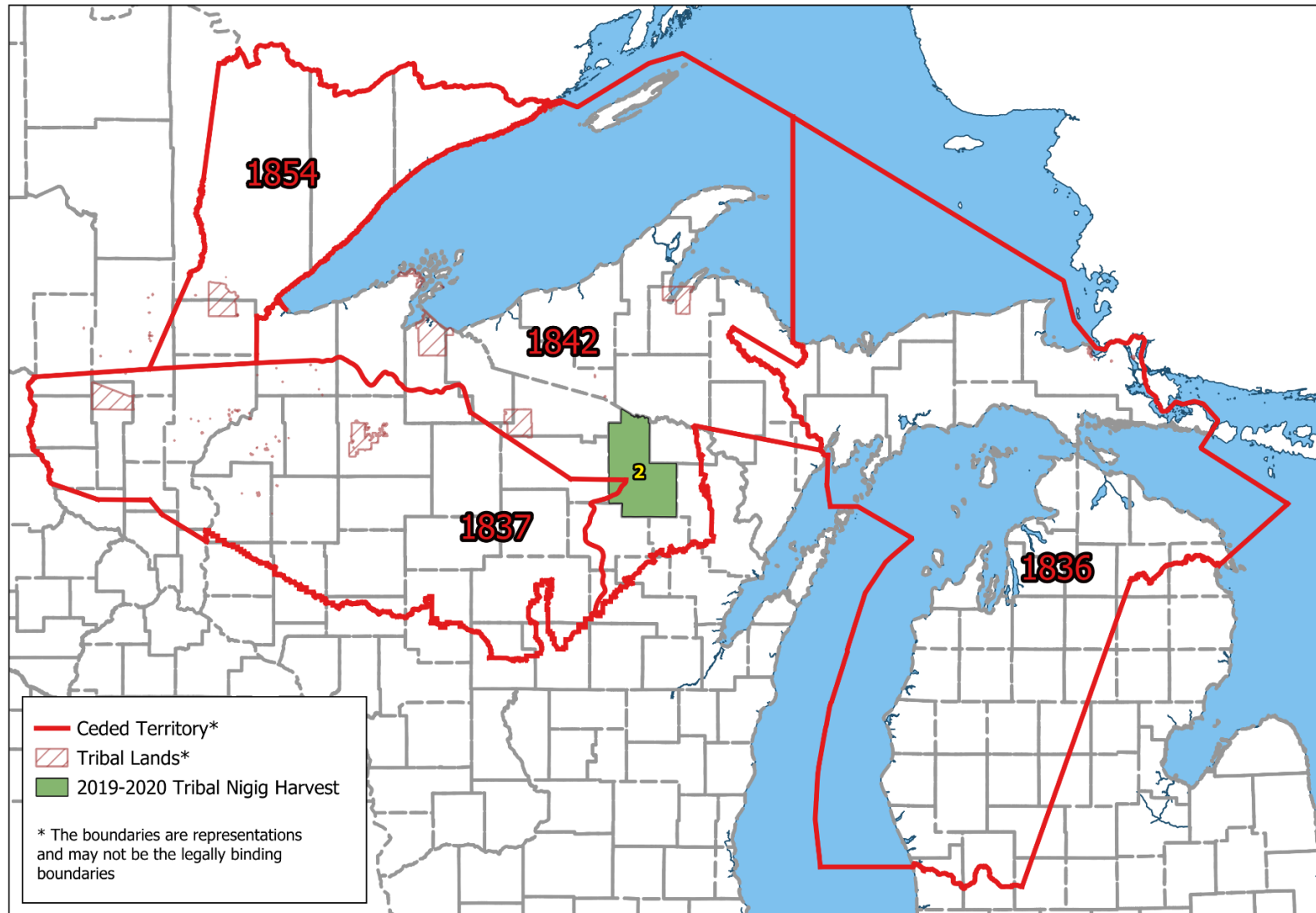


Figure 7 Distribution of *nigig* harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season.

There were two successful *nigig* harvesters during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season (Figure 8, Table 10). No harvester registered more than one *nigig*. The average number of *nigigwag* harvested was 1.0.

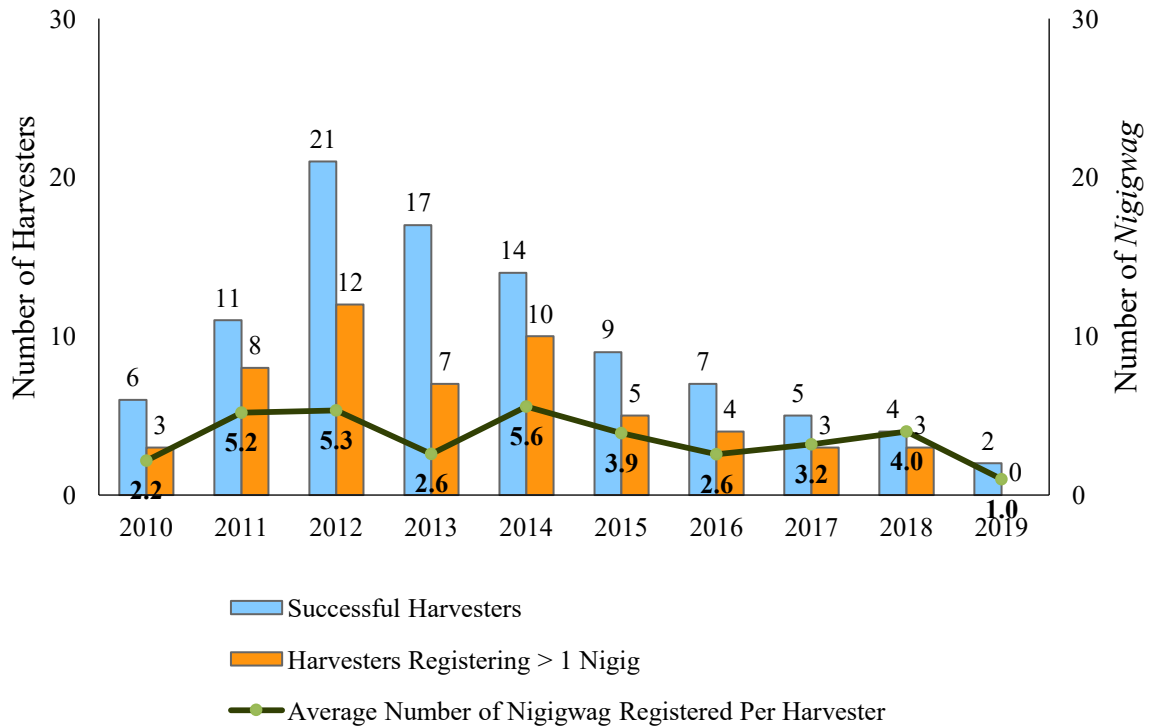


Figure 8 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple *nigigwag*, and average number of *nigigwag* registered per harvester. *Nigigwag* registered at Bay Mills were included beginning in 2011.

Table 10 Number of successful harvesters and the number of *nigigwag* they harvested off-reservation during the 2019-20 tribal *nigig* season.

<i>Nigigwag</i>	Harvesters	Percent of Harvesters	Total <i>Nigigwag</i>
1	2	100%	4
Total	2	100%	4

GIDAGAA-BIZHIW (BOBCAT)

A total of seven *gidagaa-bizhiwag* were harvested by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal season (Tables 11 and 12, Figure 9). This total does not include Fond du Lac's *gidagaa-bizhiw* harvest in Minnesota.

Michigan

No *gidagaa-bizhiwag* were harvested in the 1842 ceded territories in Michigan by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 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 (2020) and are not reported in tables and figures below. Fond du Lac members harvested one *gidagaa-bizhiw* during the 2019-20 season. No *gidagaa-bizhiwag* were harvested in the 1837 ceded territories in Minnesota by GLIFWC's other member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season. Tribal harvest in the state of Minnesota was below the threshold of 25.

Wisconsin

A total of seven *gidagaa-bizhiwag* were harvested in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories in Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season. Male *gidagaa-bizhiwag* comprised 71% of the harvest. Harvest was distributed among five counties. Bayfield and Burnett Counties accounted for 57% of the harvest. Tribal harvest was below the 15% threshold of state harvest for the 2019-20 *gidagaa-bizhiw* season in Wisconsin.

Table 11 Harvest summary for the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season by registration station and sex.

Station	Male	Female	Total
Fond du Lac	0	1	1
Lac du Flambeau	2	0	2
St. Croix	3	1	4
Total	5	2	7

Table 12 Harvest summary for the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season by state, county, and sex.

State	County	Male	Female	Total
Wisconsin	Bayfield	1	1	2
	Burnett	2	0	2
	Chippewa	1	0	1
	Douglas	0	1	1
	Oneida	1	0	1
Total		5	2	7

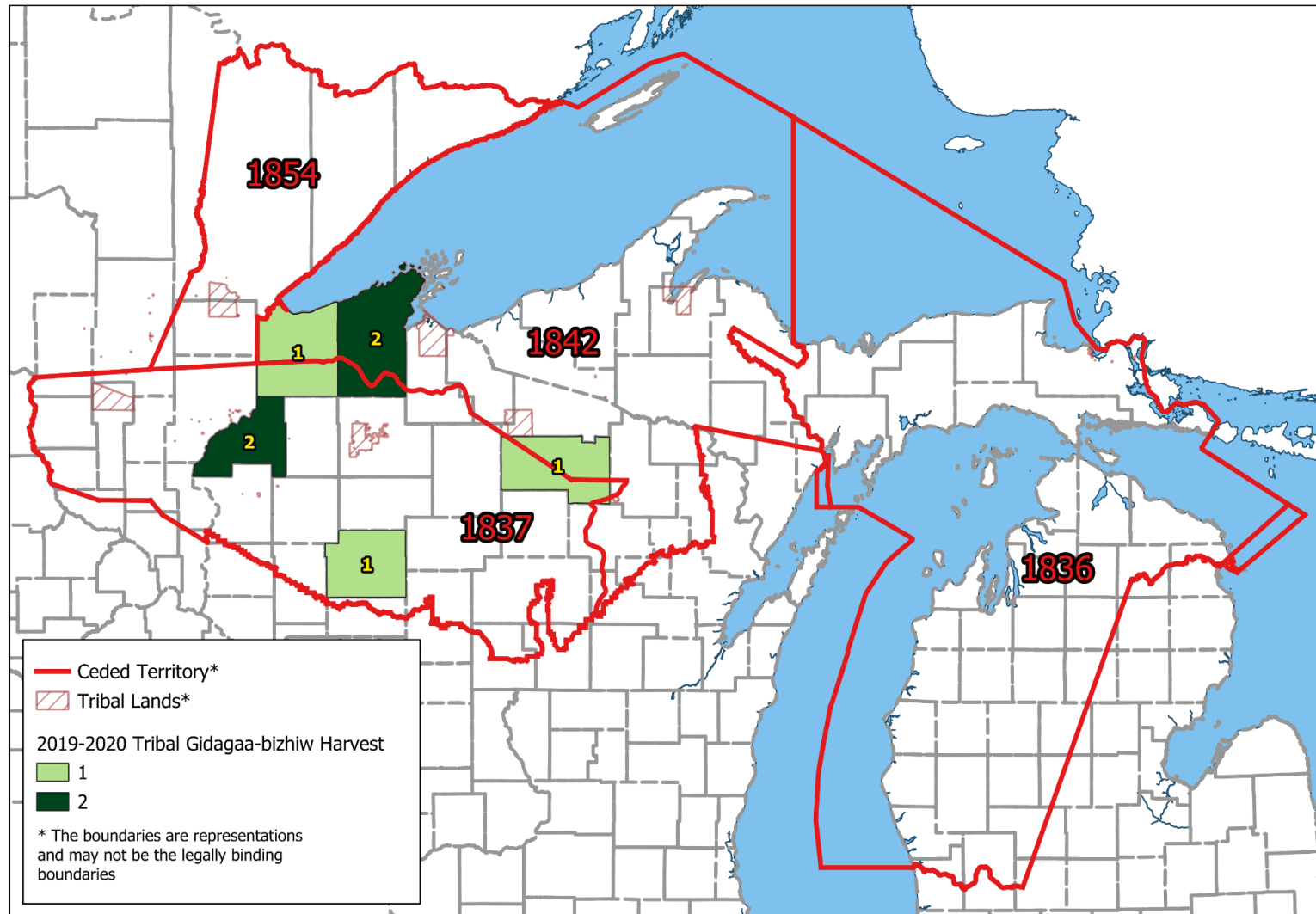


Figure 9 Distribution of *gidagaa-bizhiw* harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season.

There were five successful *gidagaa-bizhiw* harvesters during the 2019-20 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season (Figure 10, Table 13). One harvester registered more than one *gidagaa-bizhiw*. The average number of *gidagaa-bizhiw* harvested was 1.4.

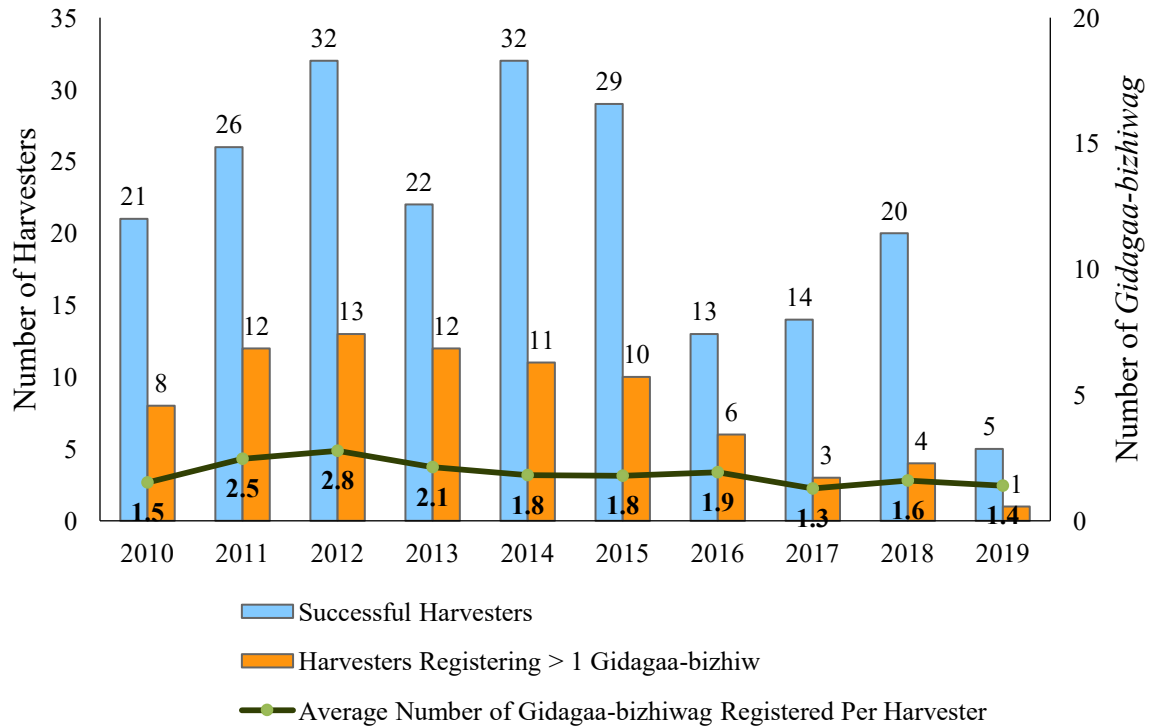


Figure 10 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple *gidagaa-bizhiw*, and average number of *gidagaa-bizhiw* registered per harvester. *Gidagaa-bizhiw* registered at Bay Mills were included beginning in 2011.

Table 13 Number of successful harvesters and the number of *gidagaa-bizhiw* they harvested off- reservation during the 2019-20 tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season.

<i>Gidagaa-bizhiw</i>	Harvesters	Percent of Harvesters	Total <i>Gidagaa-bizhiw</i>
1	4	80%	4
3	1	20%	3
Totals	5	100%	7

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