



**Results of the 2022-23 Off-Reservation *Ojig*
(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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Results of the 2022-23 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 2022-23 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).

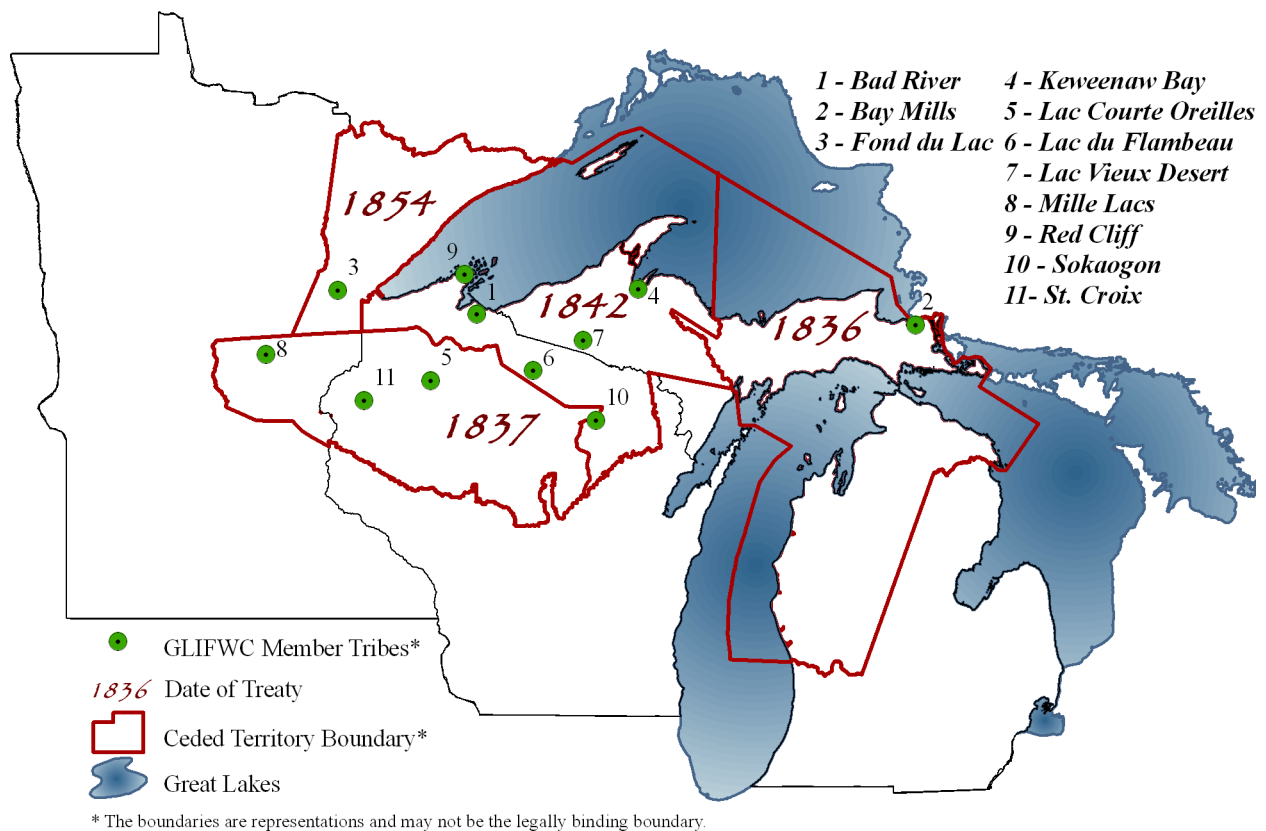


Figure 1 Location of ceded territories and GLIFWC member tribes in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

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 2022-23 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 in Minnesota since they use their own reporting system. Fond du Lac' harvest data is reported by Schrage (2023).

Tribal members harvested a total of 6 *ojiigag*, 6 *nigigwag*, 13 *gidagaa-bizhiwag*, and 4 *waabizheshiwag* during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal furbearer season. Harvest trends for *ojiig*, *nigig*, *gidagaa-bizhiw*, and *waabizheshi* during the 2013-14 through 2022-23 seasons are illustrated in Figure 2. Table 1 provides harvest totals by species and season.

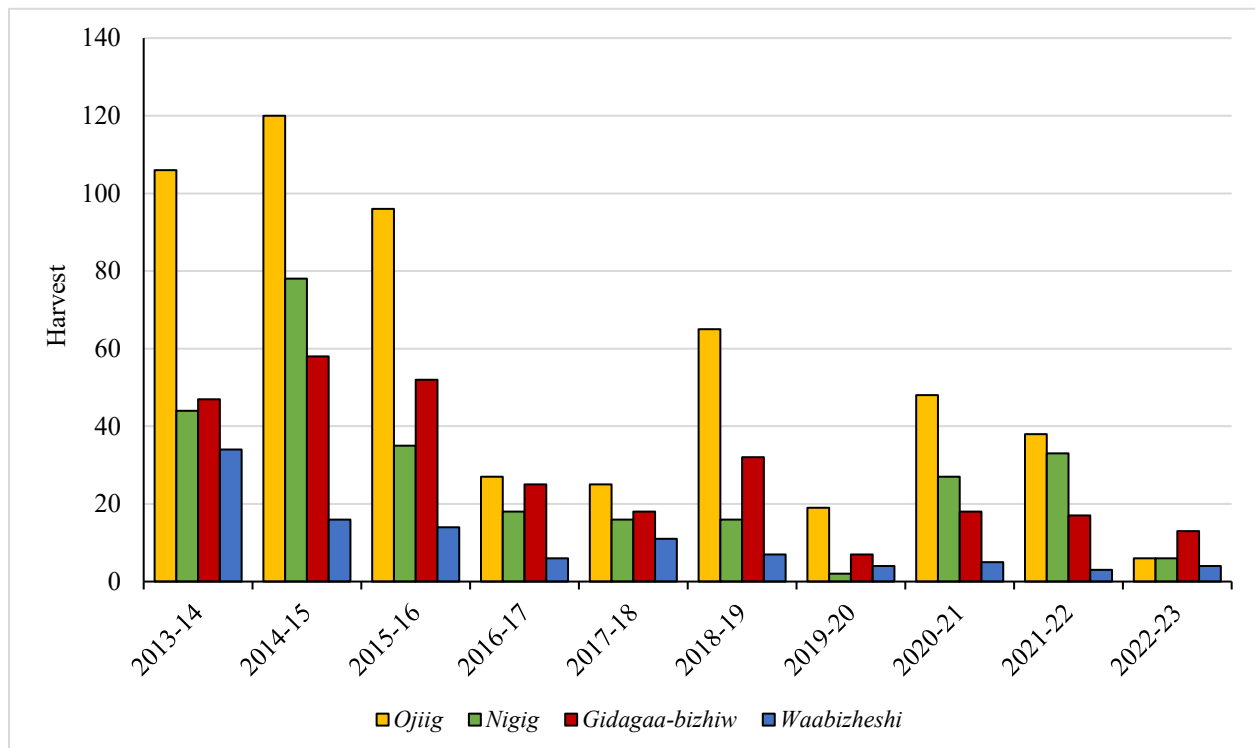


Figure 2 Harvest summary for off-reservation tribal furbearer seasons 2013-14 through 2022-23.

Table 1 Harvest summary for off-reservation tribal furbearer seasons 2013-14 through 2022-23.

Season	<i>Ojüig</i>	<i>Nigig</i>	<i>Gidagaa-bizhiw</i>	<i>Waabizhesi</i>
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
2020-21	48	27	18	5
2021-22	38	33	17	3
2022-23	6	6	13	4
Average	63	35	34	16

***OJIIG* (FISHER)**

A total of six *ojiigag* were harvested by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 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

Two *ojiigag* were harvested in the 1842 ceded territories of Michigan by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season. Both *ojiigag* were harvested in Gogebic County.

Minnesota

Ojiigag harvested by Fond du Lac members in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota are reported by Schrage (2023) 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 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season. One *ojiig* was harvested from the 1837 ceded territories in Minnesota by GLIFWC's other member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season. The *ojiig* was harvested in Mille Lacs County. Tribal harvest in Minnesota was below the threshold of 25.

Wisconsin

A total of three *ojiigag* were harvested in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories of Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season. Male *ojiigag* comprised 33% of the harvest. Harvest during the 2022-23 tribal *ojiig* season was distributed evenly among three counties, Bayfield, Burnett, and Forest County. Tribal harvest was below the 15% threshold of state harvest for the 2022-23 *ojiig* season in Wisconsin.

Table 2 Harvest summary for the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season by registration station and sex.

Station	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Keweenaw Bay	0	0	2	2
Mille Lacs	0	0	1	1
Mole Lake	1	0	0	1
Red Cliff	0	1	0	1
St. Croix	0	1	0	1
Total	1	2	3	6

Table 3 Harvest summary for the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season by state, county, and sex.

State	County	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Michigan	Gogebic	0	0	2	2
Minnesota	Mille Lacs	0	0	1	1
Wisconsin	Bayfield	0	1	0	1
	Burnette	0	1	0	1
	Forest	1	0	0	1
	Subtotal	1	2	0	3
Total		1	2	3	6

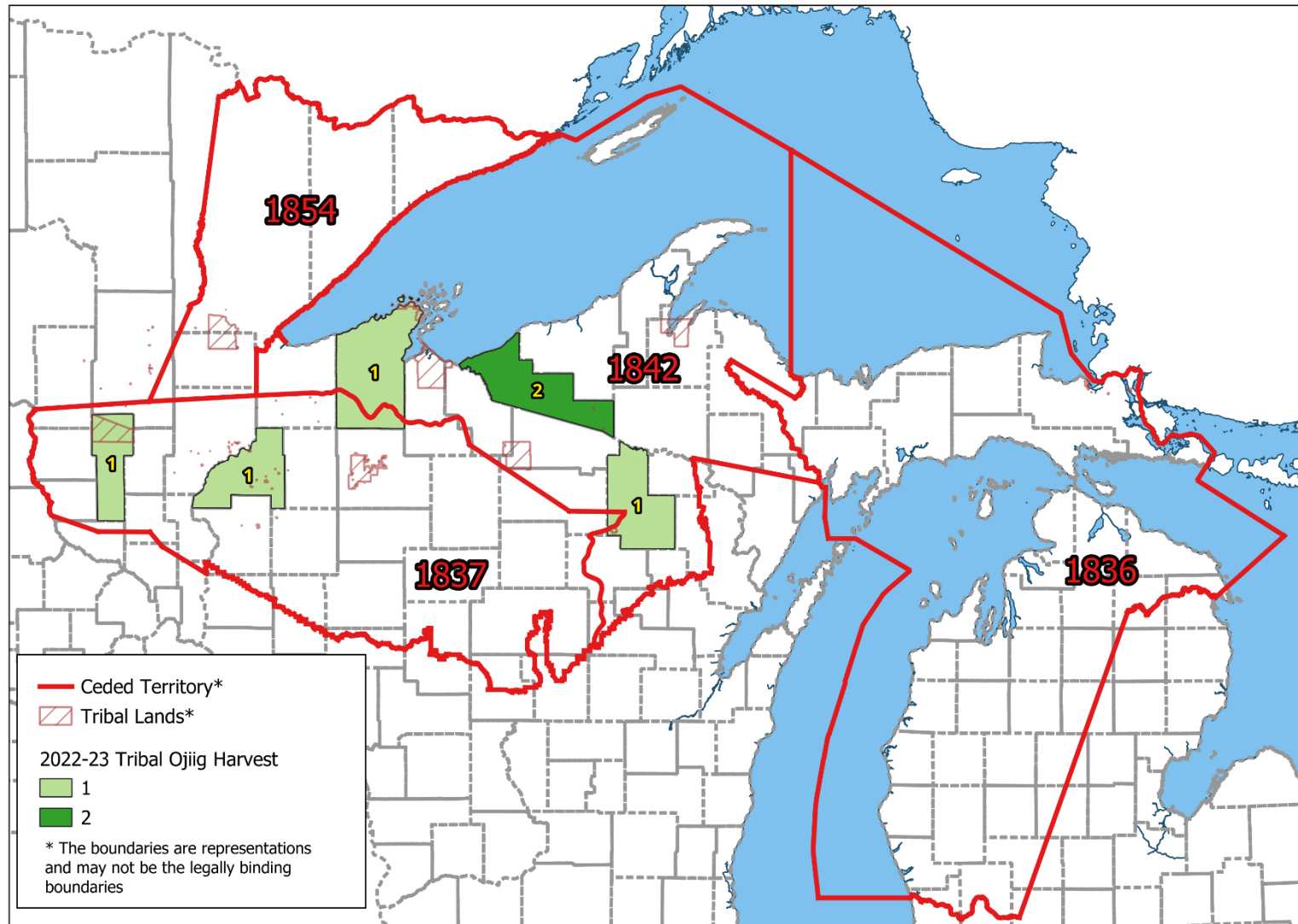


Figure 3 Distribution of *ojiig* harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *ojiig* season.

There were five successful *ojiig* harvesters during the 2022-23 tribal *ojiig* season (Figure 4, Table 4). One harvester registered more than one *ojiig*. The average number of *ojiigag* registered per harvester was 1.2.

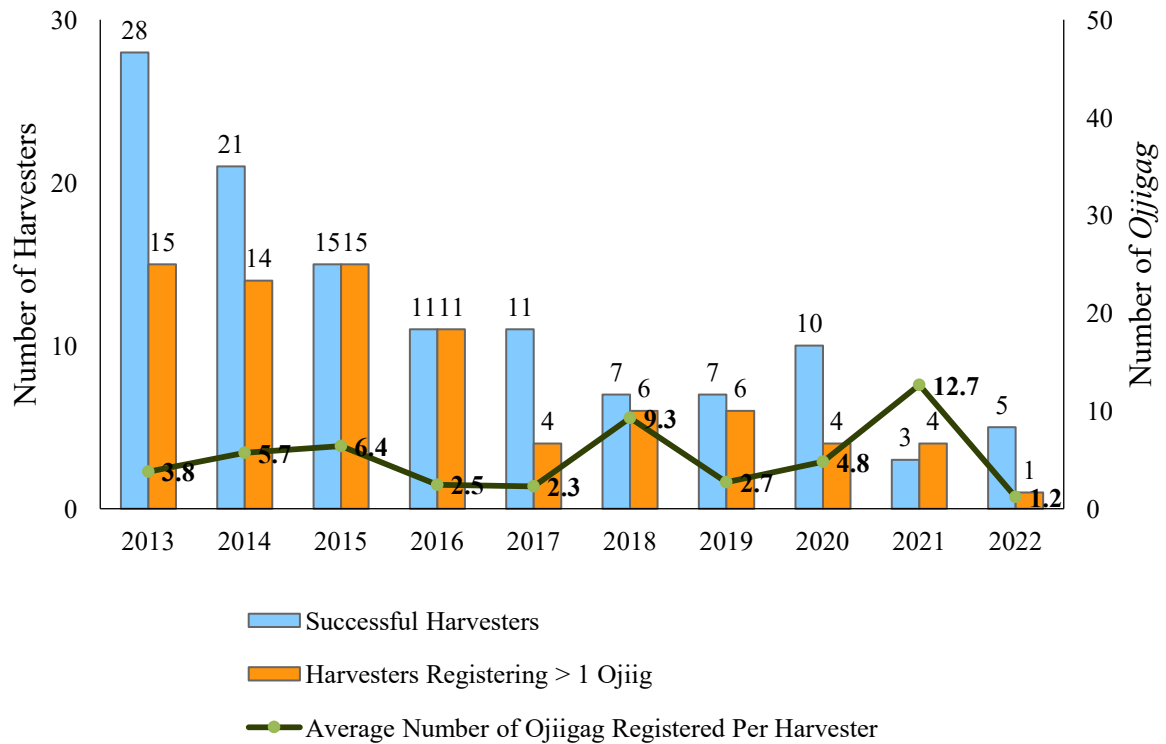


Figure 4 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple *ojiigag*, and average number of *ojiigag* registered per harvester.

Table 4 Number of successful harvesters and the number of *ojiigag* they harvested off-reservation during the 2022-23 tribal *ojiig* season.

<i>Ojiigag</i>	Harvesters	Percent of Harvesters	Total <i>Ojiigag</i>
1	4	80.0%	4
2	1	20.0%	2
Total	5	100%	6

WAABIZHESHI (MARTEN)

A total of four *waabizheshiwag* were harvested by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season (Tables 5, Figure 5). This total does not include Fond du Lac's *waabizheshi* harvest in Minnesota.

Michigan

Four *waabizheshiwag* were harvested in the 1836 ceded territories of Michigan by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season. All four were harvested in Chippewa County and were registered at the Bay Mills registration station.

Minnesota

Waabizheshiwag harvested by Fond du Lac members in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota are reported by Schrage (2023) and are not reported in tables and figures below. Fond du Lac members did not harvest any *waabizheshiwag* during the 2022-23 season. No *waabizheshiwag* were harvested from the 1837 ceded territories in Minnesota by GLIFWC's other member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation *waabizheshi* season. 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 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season by county and sex.

State	County	Male	Female	Total
Michigan	Chippewa	3	1	4
Total		3	1	4

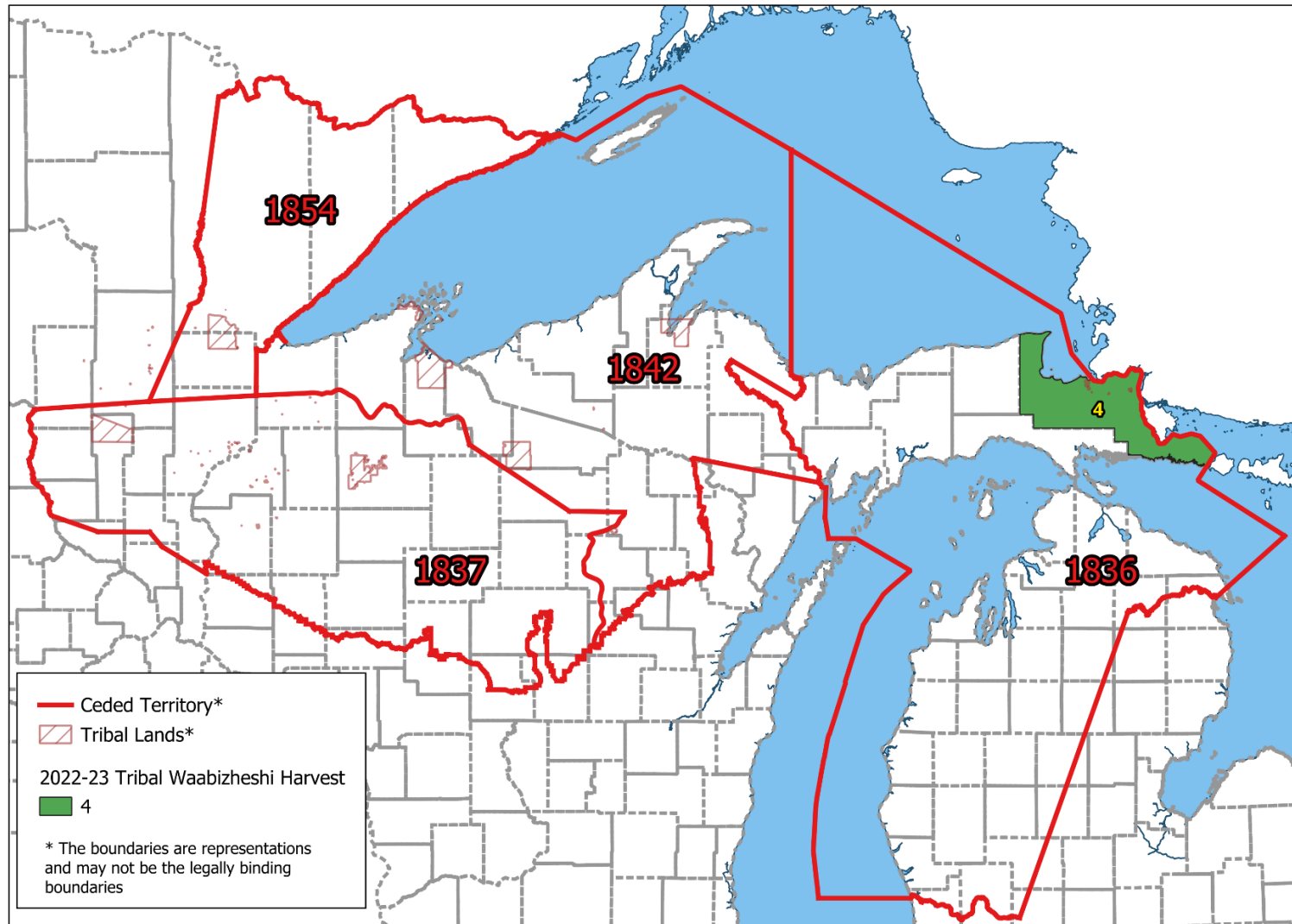


Figure 5 Distribution of *waabizheshi* harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season.

There was only one successful *waabizheshi* harvester during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *waabizheshi* season (Figure 6, Table 6) who harvested four *waabizheshiwag*.

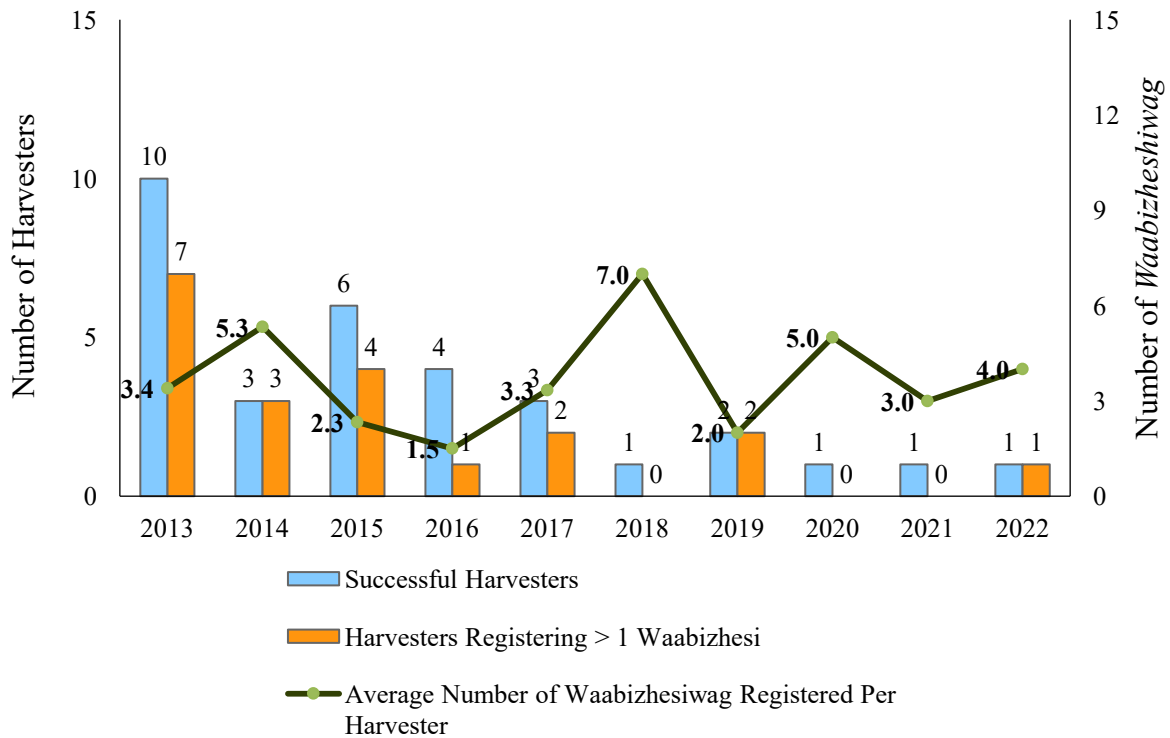


Figure 6 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple *waabizheshiwag*, and average number of *waabizheshiwag* registered per harvester.

Table 6 Number of successful harvesters and the number of *waabizheshiwag* they harvested off- reservation during the 2022-23 tribal *waabizheshi* season.

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

***NIGIG* (OTTER)**

A total of six *nigigwag* were harvested by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 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

A total of one *nigig* was harvested from the 1842 ceded territories in Michigan by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season. The single *nigig* was harvested in Houghton County in 2022-23.

Minnesota

Nigigwag harvested by Fond du Lac members in the 1837 ceded territory in Minnesota are reported by Schrage (2023) and are not reported in tables and figures below. Fond du Lac members did not harvest any *nigigwag* during the 2022-23 season. No *nigigwag* were harvested from the 1837 ceded territories in Minnesota by GLIFWC's other member tribes during the 2022-23 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 five *nigigwag* were harvested in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories in Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season. Male *nigigwag* comprised 20% of the harvest. Harvest during the 2022-23 tribal *nigig* season was distributed among 3 counties, Forest, Iron and Sawyer Counties. Forest County accounted for 60% of harvest. Tribal harvest was below the 15% threshold of state harvest for the 2022-23 *nigig* season in Wisconsin.

Table 7 Harvest summary for the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season by registration station and sex.

Station	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Keweenaw Bay	0	0	1	1
Lac Courte Oreilles	0	1	0	1
Lac du Flambeau	0	0	1	1
Mole Lake	1	2	0	3
Total	1	3	2	6

Table 8 Harvest summary for the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season by state, county, and sex.

State	County	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Michigan	Houghton	0	0	1	1
	Subtotal	0	0	1	1
Wisconsin	Forest	1	2	0	3
	Iron	0	0	1	1
	Sawyer	0	1	0	1
	Subtotal	1	3	1	5
Total		1	3	2	6

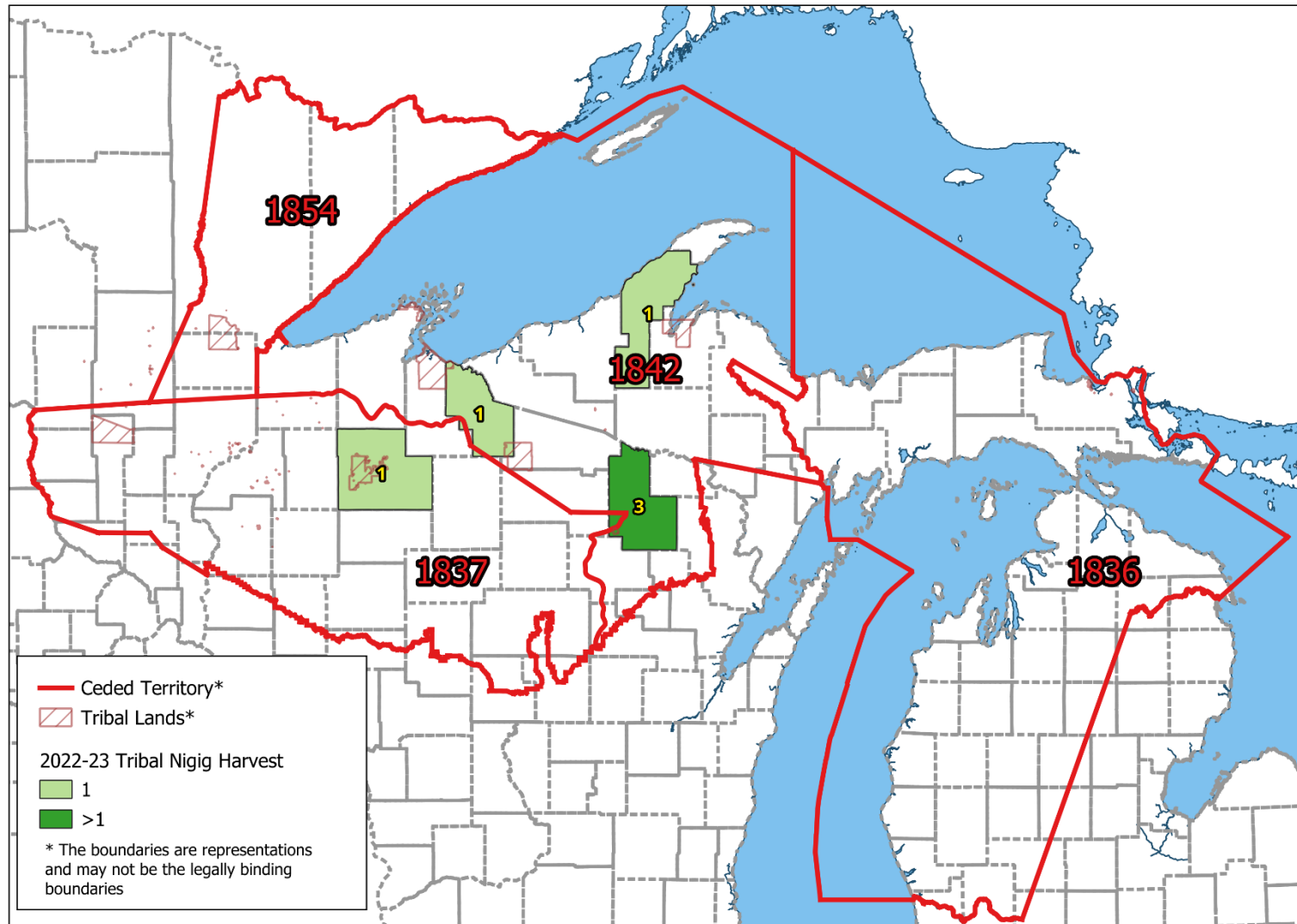


Figure 7 Distribution of *nigig* harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season.

There were four successful *nigig* harvesters during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *nigig* season (Figure 8, Table 9). One harvester registered more than one *nigig*. The average number of *nigigwag* harvested was 1.5.

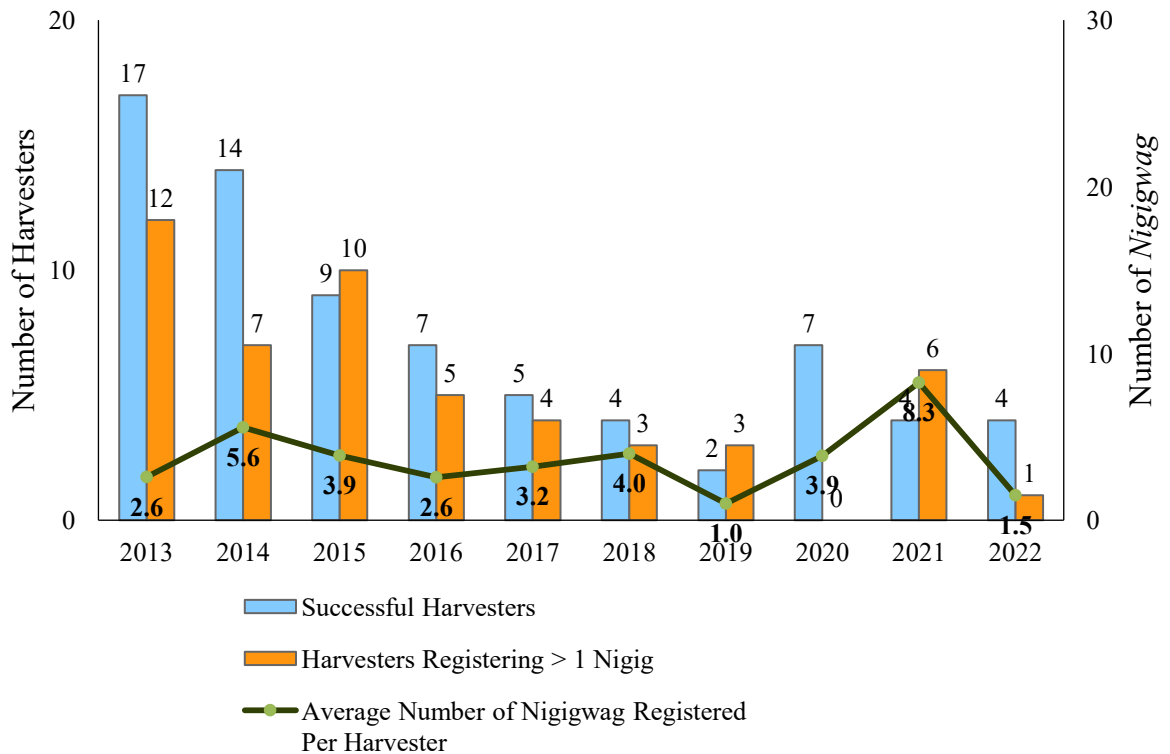


Figure 8 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple *nigigwag*, and average number of *nigigwag* registered per harvester.

Table 9 Number of successful harvesters and the number of *nigigwag* they harvested off-reservation during the 2022-23 tribal *nigig* season.

<i>Nigigwag</i>	Harvesters	Percent of Harvesters	Total <i>Nigigwag</i>
1	3	75.0%	3
3	1	25.0%	3
Total	4	100.0%	6

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

A total of 13 *gidagaa-bizhiwag* were harvested by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal season (Tables 10 and 11, Figure 9). This total does not include Fond du Lac's *gidagaa-bizhiwag* harvest.

Michigan

One *gidagaa-bizhiw* was harvested in the 1836 ceded territories in Michigan by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 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 (2023) and are not reported in tables and figures below. Fond du Lac members did not harvest any *gidagaa-bizhiwag* during the 2022-23 season. No *gidagaa-bizhiwag* were harvested in the 1837 ceded territories in Minnesota by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season.

Wisconsin

A total of 12 *gidagaa-bizhiwag* were harvested in the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories in Wisconsin by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season. Male *gidagaa-bizhiwag* comprised 42% of the harvest. Harvest was distributed among six counties. Bayfield and Oneida Counties accounted for 58% of the harvest. Tribal harvest was below the 15% threshold of state harvest for the 2022-23 *gidagaa-bizhiw* season in Wisconsin.

Table 10 Harvest summary for the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season by registration station and sex.

Station	Male	Female	Total
Bay Mills	0	1	1
Lac Courte Oreilles	1	1	2
Lac du Flambeau	2	3	5
Mole Lake	1	1	2
Red Cliff	1	2	3
Total	5	8	13

Table 11 Harvest summary for the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season by state, county, and sex.

State	County	Male	Female	Total
Michigan	Chippewa	0	1	1
	Subtotal	0	1	1
Wisconsin	Bayfield	1	2	3
	Douglas	1	0	1
	Forest	1	1	2
	Oneida	2	2	4
	Price	0	1	1
	Sawyer	0	1	1
	Subtotal	5	7	12
Total		5	8	13

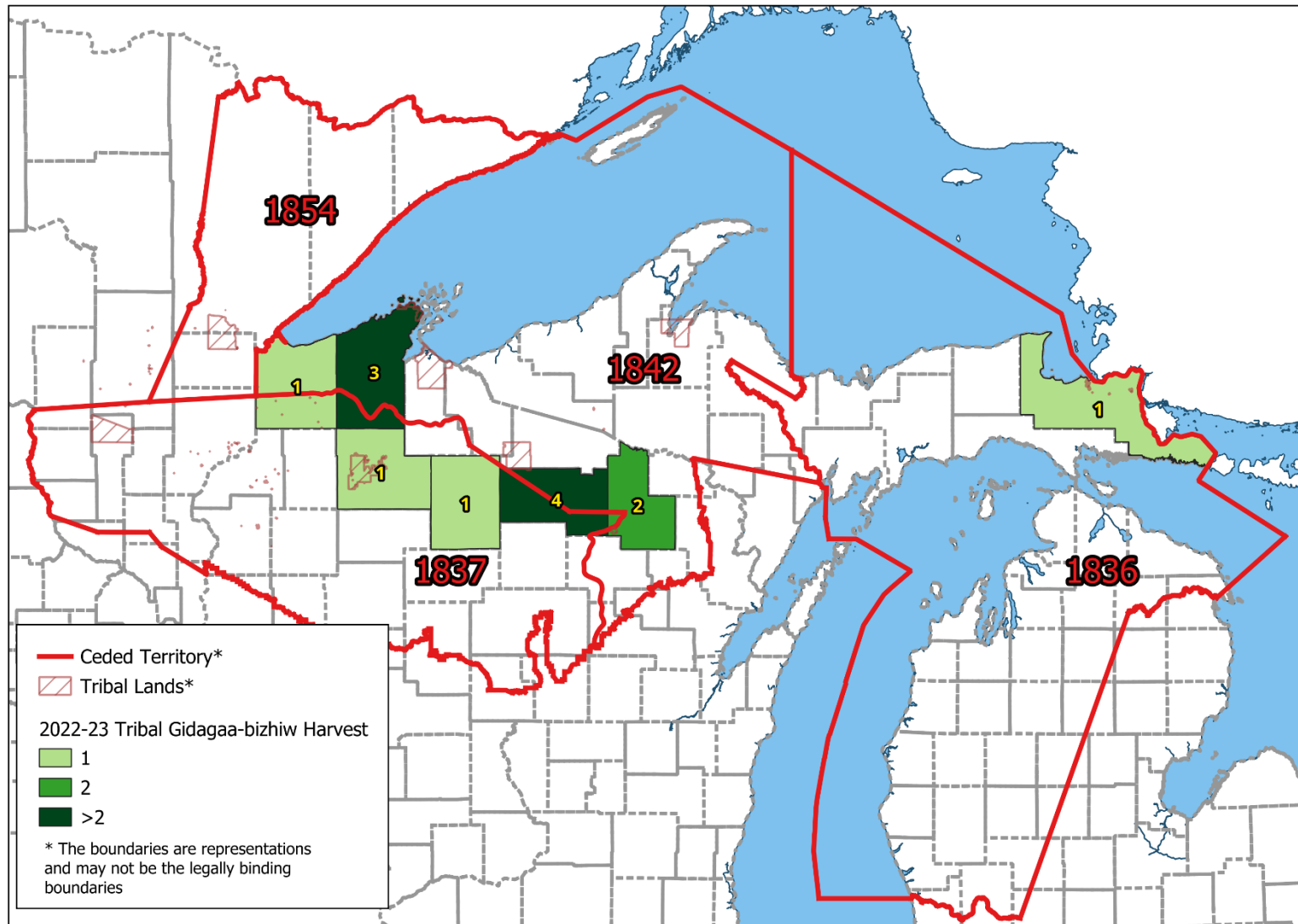


Figure 9 Distribution of *gidagaa-bizhiw* harvest by GLIFWC member tribes during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season.

There were 11 successful *gidagaa-bizhiw* harvesters during the 2022-23 off-reservation tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season (Figure 10, Table 12). Two harvesters registered more than one *gidagaa-bizhiw*. The average number of *gidagaa-bizhiw* harvested was 1.2.

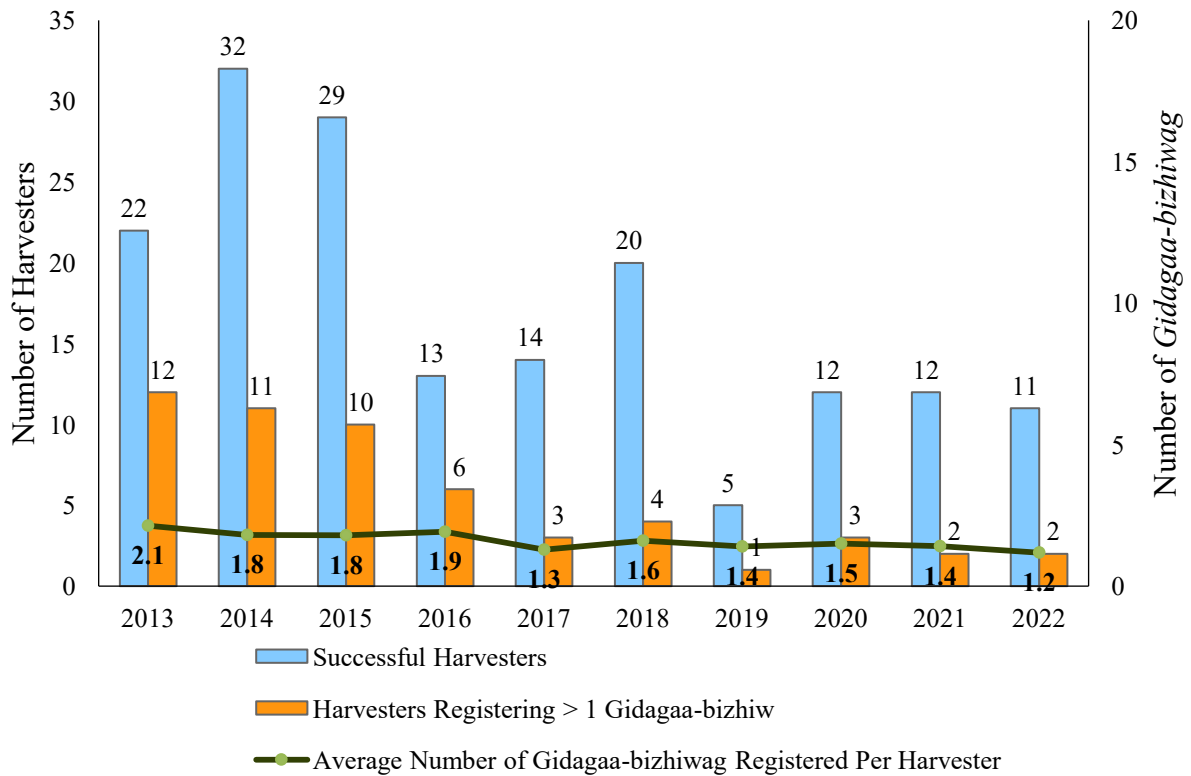


Figure 10 Trends for the number of successful harvesters, harvesters registering multiple *gidagaa-bizhiw*, and average number of *gidagaa-bizhiw* registered per harvester.

Table 12 Number of successful harvesters and the number of *gidagaa-bizhiw* they harvested off- reservation during the 2022-23 tribal *gidagaa-bizhiw* season.

<i>Gidagaa-bizhiw</i>	Harvesters	Percent of Harvesters	Total <i>Gidagaa-bizhiw</i>
1	9	81.82%	9
2	2	18.18%	4
Totals	11	100.0%	13

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