

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

Member tribes

Bay Mills Indian Community
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and
Chippewa Indians
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

CORA staff

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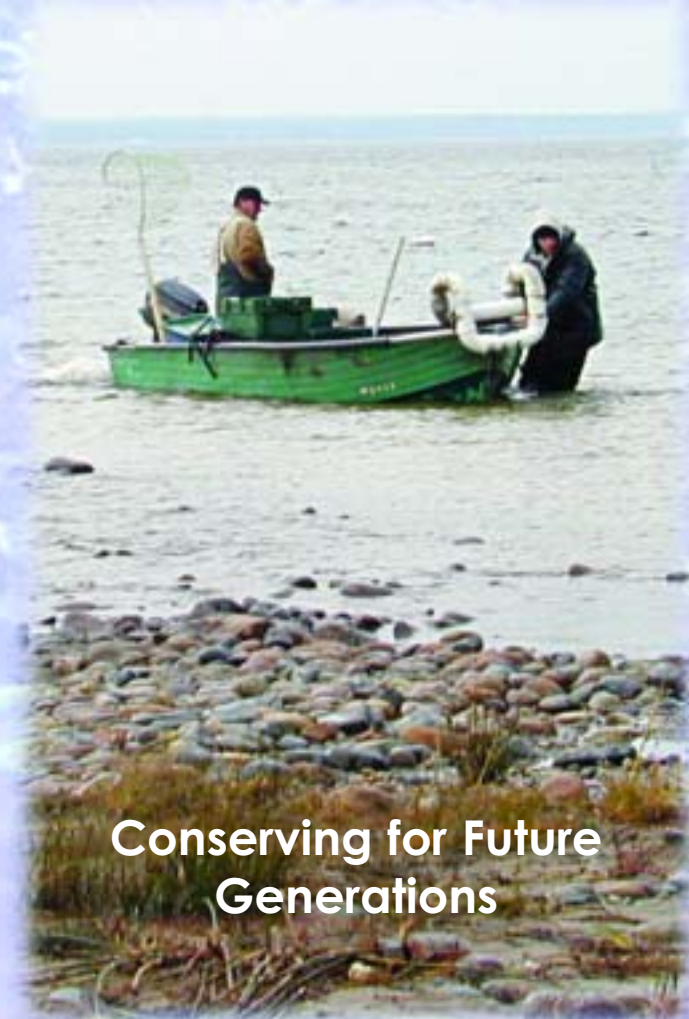
The CORA organization

The 2000 Consent Decree allocates the 1836 Treaty fishery resource by species among user groups such as the tribes, sports fishers, and state and the federal governments. CORA regulates Indian fishing in 1836 Treaty waters.

The CORA governing body is comprised of the member-tribe chairmen and the natural resource entity chairmen of each tribe.

Two committees were established under the CORA charter – the Great Lakes Resource Committee (GLRC) and the Inland Lands and Waters Resources Committee (ILWRC). The GLRC serves as the inter-tribal management body for the treaty fishery in 1836 treaty waters, invested with broad powers to carry out its charge, while ILWRC oversees inland resource matters.

Recreation, commercial and subsistence fishing regulations of CORA and its member tribes ensure conservation of fishery resources in the treaty-ceded waters in the State of Michigan, for the continued use and enjoyment by Indian tribes and all others entitled to use the resources. Requirements for catch reporting, wholesale and retail reporting, and subsistence and assessment fishing activities are described in detail in the CORA regulations. Jurisdiction and enforcement, criminal penalties, powers of the CORA Board, and access site regulations are included.



**Conserving for Future
Generations**



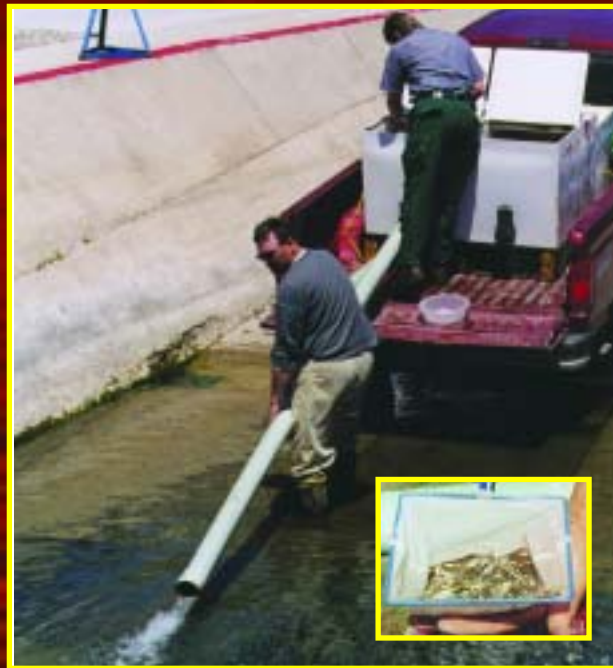
FISHERY MANAGEMENT

CORA provides biological services that ensure proper regulation of tribal fisheries and cooperative management with federal and state agencies. The Inter-Tribal Fisheries Assessment Program (ITFAP) maintains a commercial harvest database, conducts fish contaminant sampling, recommends harvest levels and carries out population research and studies.

Each member tribe is represented on the Technical Fishery Committee (TFC). The tribal, state and federal biologists who comprise the TFC are responsible for gathering data and establishing total harvest limits. The TFC plays a key role in the implementation of the biologically-driven 2000 Consent Decree.

ITFAP conducts annual fish contaminant monitoring by sampling important commercial species. Results are shared with state and federal agencies and released to the public.

ITFAP's environmental staff represents CORA on a wide variety of interagency and international committees working on water quality, water sales, invasive species (such as lamprey control) and other Great Lakes environmental issues. Both ITFAP fishery staff and tribal biological staff have been members of or have actively participated in all the Lake Committees and their Technical Committees, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Integrated Management of Sea Lamprey and many other local, regional, national and binational groups.



FISHERY ENHANCEMENT

Nunns Creek Fish Hatchery is an ongoing effort to strengthen and improve the Great Lakes fishery resource. Nunns Creek raises walleye, salmon and other species to stock Great Lakes waters. Since it opened in 1989, the hatchery has served as the center for monitoring and management of salmon harvested by tribal commercial fishermen. Member tribes fishery staff work cooperatively with CORA Fishery Enhancement, and operate their own programs such as the Odana Fish Enhancement Facility, a fish hatchery operated by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

Tribal biologists are responsible for coordinating activities and research that evaluate Great Lakes fish stocks and maintain or improve fishery habitat. Annual projects include commercial harvest monitoring, lake trout and walleye population assessment, whitefish recruitment, forage fish surveys, and water quality monitoring. Recent interagency projects in which CORA tribes have participated include habitat inventories and mapping projects, Lake Michigan yellow perch assessments, lamprey control and experimental lake trout egg and fry planting.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Tribal fishermen of the 1836 Treaty Fishery are subject to tribal fishing regulations, U.S. Coast Guard vessel safety regulations and federal seafood safety regulations (HACCP).

The five CORA tribes utilize conservation officers to enforce recreational, commercial, subsistence, and vessel safety regulations in the treaty waters of the Great Lakes. The officers perform all conservation enforcement investigations and services in treaty waters and work cooperatively with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Coast Guard. They are trained at federal or state police academies, also receive mandatory police, firearm, and first aid instruction.

Both tribal and state conservation officers have the authority to cite tribal recreational, commercial and subsistence fishers for civil and criminal infractions. When tribal fishers are cited for a violation, they are ordered into a tribal court for judgment.

Judicial systems are maintained by each of the CORA member tribes. The tribal courts hear alleged fishing violation cases and impose sentences on offending tribal members.

The 2000 Consent Decree established a Law Enforcement Committee to be responsible for resolving multi-jurisdictional enforcement fishery issues. It is made up of tribal, federal and state conservation officers who meet regularly on these issues.