

## St. Mary's River Tribes sign water protection treaty

By Jennifer Dale-Burton

Elders, pipecarriers, and Anishinabeg from both sides of the St. Mary's River came forward to witness four sovereign nations sign a treaty on November 8, 2006, to unite into a stronger voice to help the St. Mary's River.

For this purpose, leaders from Batchewana First Nation of Ojibways, Bay Mills Indian Community, Garden River First Nation and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa

Indians came together at Bay Mills Indian Community, located where the St. Mary's River meets Lake Superior. A special signing ceremony was conducted in the way of the Anishinabeg. The ceremony was opened by Pipecarriers Bud Biron, Bucko Teeple and Harvey Bell. Teeple asked for a blessing, Biron gave thanks to the water, and Bell prayed the work to be kept in a good way. Theresa Cinda spoke on behalf of the water.

Cathy Abramson, Unit 1 Director for the Sault Tribe, acknowledged and thanked everyone who has been working on the St. Mary's River problems and the treaty, especially the Tribal Elders and community members, the Sault Tribe's St. Mary's River Task Force members, Frank Ettawageshik, Chairman of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and State Representative Gary McDowell.

Ettawageshik lauded the work done to bring the tribes there that day and said he was honored to be there. The water agreement signed by over 120 two years ago led to a lot of positive work and has had a positive effect on the United States and Canada. "Working together we have a voice to fulfill those teachings and responsibilities given to us by the Creator to take care of Mother Earth," he said.

Chief Lionel Sayers signed



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

**MOMENTOUS OCCASION** — On November 8, 2006, Chief Lionel Sayers, Vice President Terry Carrick, Chairperson Aaron Payment, and Chief Dean Sayers sign a treaty regarding the preservation, protection and enhancement of the St. Mary's River ecosystem.

for Garden River, Vice President Terry Carrick signed for Bay Mills, Chairperson Aaron Payment signed for Sault Tribe, and Chief Dean Sayers signed for Batchewana Band. The leaders acknowledged the pipecarriers and the Elders there that day, and thanked everyone for all their work, especially Abramson for taking the lead.

They all realize that the river has serious problems, and hope that some damage can be reversed. The agreement that they signed that day will help unite them into a stronger voice to take stronger action.

Witnesses of the signing were welcomed to come forward and also sign. A give  
See "Treaty," page 4



The Healing Lodge Singers attended the ceremony and sang for the water. Cathy Abramson, at right, looks on with her granddaughter.

## Tribes sign gathering MOU with US Forest Service

By Jennifer Dale-Burton

The inherent right to gather medicines, natural foods, hand-craft items and firewood will again be freely exercised as a part of everyday life for the Anishinabeg on Federal Forest Lands in the 1836 Treaty-Ceded Territory. On November 3, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB), the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI), Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB), and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians celebrated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the four tribes and the US Forest Service. The agreement aims to preserve and protect Tribal gathering activities conducted within the Huron-Manistee and Hiawatha National Forests.

The USFS-Tribal agreement makes it possible for the Forest Service, and with it, the federal government, to further recognize both the tribes' preserved treaty rights and their cultural lifeways as a sovereign people.



**LTBB Chairman  
Frank Ettawageshik**

"To have the Forest Service work with us to define mutual agreement of treaty rights on federal lands is an important step," said LTBB Chairman Frank Ettawageshik, adding that it brings about tribal unity in dealing with the federal government.

An agreement that lays out gathering activities is good for the Anishinabe people, the Forest Service and for the forest ecosystems themselves. "In the past, exercising treaty rights brought sporadic incidents of uneven enforcement,"

said Ettawageshik, because at times there was federal cooperation but at other times there was not. "There were a lot of questions about how we would do things; the MOU answers most of those questions. I feel good about that."

"The MOU eliminates ambiguity, and enables crucial monitoring of culturally significant resources in the US Forests," said Jimmie Mitchell, LRBOI Natural Resource Commission chairman.

"The MOU guarantees access to resources that we use in our traditional way of life," said Ettawageshik. "It guarantees access to medicines, different items we need for our art and ceremony. It outlines how we have access to lands for ceremonial use, for different types of gatherings."

The agreement brings more freedom to Anishinabe practicing traditional lifeways. No one has to gather medicines in fear of violation of federal laws, and can feel safe again in following their traditional

lifeways. Ettawageshik added that it feels good to be one of those individuals going into the woods and using the forest's bounty to work at a campsite. "When I make clay into a pot, I feel connected to those who made those pots before me," he said.

The MOU was not an agreement that just happened overnight. It was the 8-year product of the many people involved. It began in 1998, after the USFS signed a similar MOU with the Wisconsin tribes and Bay Mills Indian Community. But the four Michigan tribes wanted a gathering agreement tailored to the 1836 treaty territory, according to John Keshick, LTBB Natural Resource Commission chairman.

According to Keshick, three of the tribes starting meeting together in 1998, after his tribal council authorized negotiation. Mitchell led negotiations at the request of the Tribes, with the assistance of Tribal biologists, key staff,

commissions and lawyers.

Sault Tribe joined in the effort in fall 2004, and after the combined effort by the tribes and the Forest Service, the MOU was finally agreed upon and signed.

Forest Service staff is in the process of visiting each of the affected tribes to go over the agreement with Tribal Natural Resource Department staff and any interested tribal member. To receive a permit, tribal members can go to their tribe's natural resources department for more information about the MOU, including fee-waived camping locations. And, unless it's a federal crime, any alleged resource violation found within the MOU will go through tribal court.

"It was a long time coming," said Keshick. "The commissions worked hard, but it was the day-to-day work by the staff that made it possible — people like Doug Craven, Jimmie Mitchell, and the tribal biologists. I take my hat off to those folks."

# St. Mary's River walleye fishery a story of community

By Jennifer Dale-Burton

BARBEAU, Mich. — Barbeau is a small community on the St. Mary's River, somewhere between Sault Ste. Marie and Drummond Island, and it's the kind of community where people come together to do good works. Just recently, the Inter-Tribal Fishery and Assessment Program, the McDonald family and the St. Mary's River Sportsmen Club met to stock 1,000 walleye in the St. Mary's River.

"The tribe is an intimate part of the fish planting we've been doing for the past 5 or 6 years," Cleary said.

St. Mary's River Sportsmen Club works to stock the river with 5,000 walleye each year. The club raises funds by holding an annual raffle that pays for the stocking and helps pay for the kids' fishing pond at Rotary Island a few miles upstream. Pat Cleary, club president, said that the Sault Tribe helps by donating a \$10 casino coupon at the back of each ticket book.

The club raises enough money to purchase 4,000 walleye, and the rest come from ITFAP's walleye ponds. ITFAP — along with Forbes McDonald, his daughter Andrea, and Nathaniel Armstrong, who lease the land to ITFAP for its rearing pond operation — donate the 1,000 fall fingerlings and "give their time to the effort, too," added Cleary. "We are the arm that puts in the walleye, but it's for all fishermen. This past couple of years is the best walleye fishery we've had."

McDonald said her family does it to enhance the fishing enjoyment of the public.

The group released the ITFAP fingerlings into the river at Riverview Resort and Marina owned by Al and

Rosie Schwartz. Club Vice President John Primus and members Al Schwartz Jr., Sonny Veit, Ken Keeley, helped, too. All are Barbeau residents.

When Schwartz got here nine years ago, he thought no one was catching walleye. But since 2000, he has noticed fishermen catching more and bigger fish every year. "It might be a coincidence, but we like to think we had something to do with it."

ITFAP Fishery Technician Matt Allard told the group there is a way they can find out. If fishermen save the heads of the walleye they catch, ITFAP can determine if the fish are from ITFAP's ponds. Shortly after birth, ITFAP's fry are marked with oxytetracycline (OTC) for tracking purposes. "We can extract the otolith bone [near the ear] and can examine it for OTC. If it's there, it's our fish," said Allard.

The heads can be frozen without affecting the OTC marker

"I really truly believe what we've been doing with the club has enhanced the walleye population," Schwartz said "We'll get the heads to ITFAP, and then we'll know."

ITFAP hatched 3.5 million eggs collected by ITFAP and the Michigan DNR this year. In June, ITFAP stocked 0.5 million 2-inch fingerlings across northern Michigan. The program itself is a cooperative effort, funded in part by Bay Mills Indian Community and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Walleye not released in June have since grown to 6 to 8 inches in length. These larger fall fingerlings, released On October 27, stand a better chance of surviving their first winter than the 2-inchers because they are larger.



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

It was a clear crisp fall day when Andrea McDonald, ITFAP Fishery Technician Matt Allard, St. Mary's Sportsmen Club President Pat Cleary, Riverview Resort & Marina Owner Al Schwartz Sr., Club Vice President John Primus, and others gathered on the banks of the St. Mary's River to stock the donated 6- to 8-inch fall fingerlings. McDonald's family owns the land ITFAP rearing ponds sit on and the family partners with ITFAP in raising the walleye.

## Sault Tribe fisher honored

CHIPPEWA COUNTY — Ralph Wilcox of Brimley was honored as a "Key Partner" by Michigan State University (MSU) Extension on October 10 during a banquet in Grand Rapids.

"Thanks for the support, encouragement, and input from our key partners, our organization is better

able to serve all Michigan citizens," said Tom Coon, MSU Extension director. "Working in concert with our staff, these folks help us most effectively direct our resources to the areas of greatest need, and maximize our impact," he added.

Wilcox's assistance began back in the '70s when he worked with the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to teach fishers about biology and water quality. He has since allowed Michigan Sea Grant and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission to use his facilities for contaminant analyses projects, served on the state MSU Extension and Experiment Station Council and now sits on the Great Lakes Whitefish Marketing Project Steering Committee.

Wilcox is a Sault Tribe commercial fisherman who owns and operates the Wilcox Fish House and Restaurant with his wife and partner, Shirley. Although he comes from a long line of fishermen, he is the first to open a restaurant, where he sells up to 80 percent of his catch. The family also operates its own processing and smoking facilities.



Photo courtesy MSU Extension

Longtime fisherman and entrepreneur Ralph Wilcox was recently recognized by the MSU extension as one of the Extensions key partners for all his assistance over the years.

## Grand Traverse Band DOE energy study now under way

TRIBE TO ANALYZE RENEWABLE RESOURCE IN GREEN ENERGY

Andy Knott, GTB Environmental Stewardship Director

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) has initiated a feasibility study of renewable energy and energy efficiency options. The study is funded by a grant from the US Department of Energy (DOE).

GTB is also working cooperatively with Traverse City Light and Power (TCLP) to share wind resource data. TCLP is undertaking a similar energy study.

"Exploring renewable energy options makes sense both economically and environmentally," said Robert Kewy-goshkum, chairman of the Grand Traverse Band. "With the rising cost of energy, and problems such as mercury pollution and climate change caused by fossil fuels, we have a duty to future generations to explore renewable sources of energy."

In a previous statement announcing the award of DOE renewable energy study grants to GTB and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Congressman Bart Stupak said, "These studies in renewable energy and energy efficiency are very proactive steps toward no longer being dependent on

the use of oil and gas for energy. With oil prices sky rocketing, the direction these tribes are considering could become a model for others to follow."

GTB's extensive energy experience was a contributing factor in receiving the DOE grant. The feasibility study will build on the tribe's previous energy work, including developing a primary electrical distribution system for several of its facilities, conducting wind resource monitoring, and adoption of an energy vision and plan.

"This comprehensive study will examine options for wind, biomass and solar energy, as well as energy efficiency," said Andy Knott, environmental stewardship director for GTB. "In the end, GTB will have a full analysis of costs and benefits of these technologies."

GTB began wind resource monitoring this spring using a 50-meter meteorological tower on GTB property between the Grand Traverse Resort and Turtle Creek Casino. TCLP is also beginning a wind monitoring program. An agreement between GTB and TCLP will allow both groups to share data and develop a detailed wind resource map for the Grand Traverse region.



# NATIVE FISH: walleye

The walleye is a sport and commercial fish native to the Great Lakes. In taste and texture they are much like their smaller cousin, the yellow perch, but yield a much larger fillet.

Walleye range in length from 13 to 25 inches. They are quite beautiful: olive-brown to golden-brown, with yellow on the back, paler sides and a yellowish white underside. They have two dorsal fins separated into a spiny and a soft-rayed portion, cloudy eyes, white tips on anal and lower caudal fins, and canine teeth.

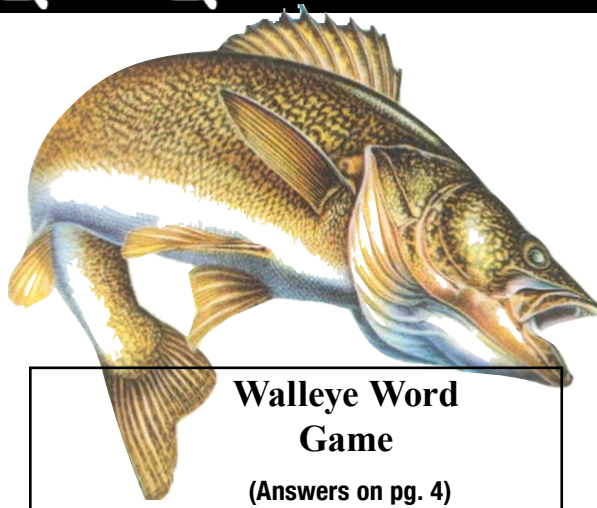
The walleye's light sensitive eyes and voracious feeding habits point the way to walleye locations. Prime feeding times are early morning and evening. In the spring and fall they congregate in shallow bay waters where they seek out rocky areas and submerged bars. During the bright part of the day they retreat in schools to the shade of deep waters or submerged objects. In the summer, walleyes range into cooler, deeper

waters. They prefer a water temperature of 55-68°F and are seldom found in waters deeper than 50 feet. They eat small bass, trout, pike, perch and sunfishes. They feed actively in the winter and can be fished year round.

Although walleye taste great in a traditional Great Lakes fish fry, they are equally good in a variety of other dishes. Many people don't know that there's lots of meat on the cheeks sometimes compared to scallops.

Because of their habitat and diet, walleyes tend to accumulate more contaminants in vulnerable areas such as rivers and inland lakes, so it is better to eat Great Lakes walleye.

A three ounce serving offers a whopping .4 grams of omega-3 fatty acids and significant amounts of Vitamin A, folate, all the B vitamins, zinc, phosphorus and copper, and lots of magnesium and calcium. It is naturally low in sodium and has no carb value. With all these benefits at only 78 calories — you can afford seconds!



## Walleye Word Game

(Answers on pg. 4)

Here's a challenging game — how many words can you find in "walleye" that are related to boats and sailing? Read the meaning and the number of letters to figure out my challenge!

1. Side of a vessel sheltered from the wind: 3
2. Short for "I hear and obey, Sir": 3
3. \_\_\_ splice, or \_\_\_-of-the-wind: 3
4. Shelter from the wind: 3
5. The lateral drift of a ship: 6
6. Movement of a vessel through the water: 3
7. Boat \_\_\_\_, or live \_\_\_\_: 4
8. Deviate from an intended course: 3

## Walleye fillets and Cheeks in Green Peppercorn Sauce

- 4 walleye fillets cut into bite size chunks
- 2 TBLS butter
- 1/2 tsp grated lemon rind
- 8 walleye cheeks
- 1 TBLS green peppercorns
- 1 TBLS fresh lemon juice
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1) Heat the butter in large frying pan over high heat until it begins to brown

2) Add the lemon rind, fish and cheeks. Brown quickly, stirring carefully.

3) Add the green peppercorns and lemon juice quickly, season with salt and pepper, then cover the pan and remove from heat. Let stand, covered, for 5 minutes. Serve immediately.

(If green peppercorns are freeze dried, soak in hot water for 5 minutes before adding to recipe.)

*Gashkadino Geezis*



*Manidoo Geezisoons*

# Ice Moon and Little Spirit Moon

November to December is the late fall moving into winter. These days, we never know what the weather will be. By Christmas, there could be 5 feet of snow, or it could be raining. The lunar months Freezing Moon, Baashkaakodin giizis, and Little Spirit Moon, Manidoo giizoons, are important times in the Anishinabe calendar. For the sake of survival, it is a time to be aware of how much time the Anishinabeg have left to stock up for the long winter, to know when the ground and waters will freeze for easier movement, and what kind of winter it will be. Some communities who depended on this the fall whitefish fishery called November 'whitefish moon.' Whitefish was caught in abundance this time of year because it was spawning time.

But these days, we don't fish at spawning time in order to preserve and protect the whitefish stocks.

Here is what an Elder from Minnesota remembered:

*"We only have a certain amount of time to prepare for living through the winter. And we studied nature to see how the winter was going to be. A rabbit and a muskrat told the proof of whether it was going to be a long and cold winter, or a short winter. If they were fat on the back, that's what made you expect a long cold winter. If it was going to be a short winter, they weren't fat at all as they didn't care to eat. But if it was going to be cold, those rabbits and muskrats ate. It's the same way with cows and horses nowadays. They eat more when it's going to be cold weather."*

*"So when we'd get good weather, nice weather, we used to put up all the berries and wild rice that we'd need for the winter. We learned that if you want to live good you have to work to prepare for these hard winters. I suppose in the South they have it different. I suppose they don't care. But up here in the North you have to get on the ball. Yeah, it's a great country up here. I like it up here because in the winter we have snow to track necessary food, meat."*

— *When Everybody Called Me Gah-bay-bi-nayss: "Forever-Flying-Bird" An Ethnographic Biography of Paul Peter Buffalo*

This is a great book to read. The passage above is good to consider at this time of year. Attitude can be as sustaining as food.

## HW HOCKS FOR SALE



**FISHING VESSEL FOR SALE — H. W. Hocks, 48-foot + 13-foot + 6 draft. CAT D-13000 6 Inline, Power Take Off, Pony Motor Starter. Twin Disk Trany, 4-inch Propeller Shaft, Large Rudder. New 24-mile Radar, 600-foot Depth Finder, GPS, Large 8-inch Compass, and 30" Crosely gillnet lifter. Warm Vessel: Coal and Wood Stove. Contact Skip Parish Sr. at 248-2848.**

## 36-FOOT TRAP NET BOAT



**SHAMROCK FOR SALE — The beautiful 36-foot, diesel-powered trap net boat "Shamrock" is for sale for \$40,000. Included is a new Perkins 115T motor and a 4-axle trailer. Call 248-2150.**

## CORA office & BIA office closures

**CORA 2006 HOLIDAYS — CORA offices will be closed November 23-24, December 25-26 and January 1-2, 2007.**

**BIA 2006 HOLIDAYS —The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) November 23 and December 25.**

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS ACCORDINGLY.**

## 42-foot Gill Net Tug



**FOR SALE — 42' Gill Net Tug "Niibing Nimnido"** (Formerly the "Francis Clark"). This steel tug was constructed in the 1950s, but has been well maintained and is very clean. The vessel is powered by a 630 Caterpillar diesel engine and has a 30" lifter. Currently docked at the Arthur Duhamel Marina at Peshawbestown, Mich. Contact Don Chippewa or Rose Weese at 1645 S. Center Highway, Suttons Bay, MI 49682, for more information. Or, contact the Grand Traverse Band Natural Resources Department at 231-534-7500 to relay a message.



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

**USCG HEARS PUBLIC'S DISAPPROVAL** — A November 3 public hearing concerning US Coast Guard live firing zones, Suzanne McSawby (above), Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Natural Resource Department director, informed the USCG panel about the tribes' reserved rights under the 1836 Treaty. The hearing took place in Charlevoix with packed house of concerned citizens ranging from the Upper Peninsula to Traverse City.

USCG officials had never approached the tribes about their plan despite the tribes' government-to-government relationship with the United States, McSawby added. CORA echoed that point in its letter commenting on the live fire zones, further adding that proposed federal actions that impact treaty rights are subject to legal challenge. Another GTB staff, Environmental Steward Andy Knott, said that the USCG actions may be in violation of the Clean Air Act.

Overall, the public speaking to the Coast Guard officers that night had safety, environmental, and military concerns and added their support to the tribes' treaty rights.

The zones intersect some high traffic areas including the Beaver Island Ferry, and the public feels the notification procedure is inadequate. The environmental assessment was done with no baseline data, meaning that there was no assessment of the amount of lead, copper, antimony and zinc prior to the military exercises with real ammunition. Further, there was no consideration that "green" ammunition without lead could be used. There were some concerns that the target practice would bring undue attention to our Great Lakes and perverts the traditional safety and rescue mission of the Coast Guard. Go to <http://dms.dot.gov/> and enter '25767' to view the comments.

## Reminder!

### FISHERS & FISH PROCESSORS: Register Now! HACCP Basic Course to be offered Dec. 19-21

SAULT STE. MARIE — A seafood Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification training, to be conducted by Michigan Sea Grant Agent Ron Kinnunen, has been scheduled for December 19, 20, and 21, at Mikanuk Hall, Bay Mills Community College, Bay Mills Indian Community.

The cost is \$90 per person, and includes all HACCP manuals and educational materials. The course is open to any and all fishers and fish processors who would like to attend. The course will be taught by Ron Kinnunen, Mike Erdman, Jim Thannum and Jennifer Dale-Burton.

CORA-member tribe fishers should check with their Natural Resource

departments for additional resources.

"HACCP" stands for "Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point." The Seafood HACCP regulation became mandatory in 1997.

The HACCP training course helps fishermen and processors learn to develop and adopt a HACCP plan to fit their specific needs; reassess or modify the plan as a result of verification activities and any corrective actions that occur; and review the HACCP records for adequacy.

To ask questions or to sign up, contact Ron Kinnunen at 906-226-3687 or [kinnunel@msu.edu](mailto:kinnunel@msu.edu). This course cannot be held unless the class is full, so call now.



Photo by Jennifer Dale-Burton

**WITNESS** — Those present at the treaty signing ceremony were invited to sign as witnesses. Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment (left) and the other leaders make sure to sign all four original copies.

From "Treaty," page 4

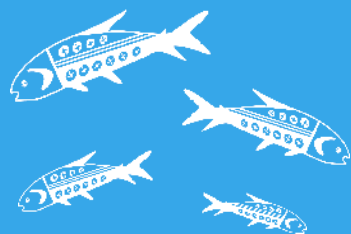
away and dinner followed.

According to the treaty, the tribes will work together to develop programs and practices to better understand the river's ecosystem; eliminate or reduce discharge of toxic substances and introduction of invasive species into the river; and influence other governments involved

to abide by existing commitments and develop additional programs to revitalize, preserve and protect the river. Lastly, the treaty establishes a Tribal and First Nation Joint Commission with a representative from each nation to facilitate communication between and coordination among the nations.

## Deadline

The next deadline for the CORA newsletter "Preserving the Resource" (formerly "Tribal Fishing") is Monday, January 9, 2007. Call or write Jennifer Dale-Burton at the CORA Public Information & Education Program 906-632-0043, or [jmdale@chippewaottawa.org](mailto:jmdale@chippewaottawa.org).



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LEEWAY, WAY, WELL, YAW  
"Walleve": ALEE, AYE, EYE, LEE,  
Eight Boating Words Found in

## New treaty fishery publication in the works

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) recently granted CORA with \$30,413 to complete a 1-year project called, 'Gigoike "I am fishing": an 1836 Treaty Fishery Public Education Project.' CORA will supply a \$7,652 in-kind contribution to complete the project.

The goal of the project is to develop and disseminate a full-color, 12-page booklet that uses text and photos to tell the story of the 1836 Treaty Fishery — its history, people, management, conservation and stewardship. A pocket on the back page will allow the user to place more information and a business card inside the booklet.

The project arose from a Public Information & Education Taskgroup formed by the CORA Board of Directors in 2005. The taskgroup recommended the development of a full color, 12-page, 5-inch by 9-inch booklet discussing basic CORA functions and the treaty fishery.

The booklet would be attractive, appealing, fit into a purse, briefcase or tackle box, and be designed for easy reading for everyone from grade-schoolers to senior citizens.

However, no funds were found for the the publication until ANA approved a grant proposal written by CORA Public Information Officer Jennifer Dale-Burton. The desired results are reduction of vandalism to tribal fishing gear and vessels, and increased information requests from the public. An immeasurable but valuable result-slooked for is a perception by tribal fishermen and professionals that there is a decrease in social pressure to stop exercising the treaty right to fish.

The CORA tribes' communities are an important part of the process. Once a first draft is ready, it will be brought to each community — Bay Mills, Grand Traverse Band, Little River Band, Little Traverse Bay Bands, and Sault Tribe —

for their unique feedback. The draft will give each community a starting point to talk about what's needed to improve negative attitudes toward treaty fishing. After the final draft is printed, it will be distributed to all CORA tribal members who would like a copy, and to the public-at-large, and tested for its effectiveness.

Those interested in participating should watch for announcements this winter. Those with any questions should feel free to call Dale-Burton at 906-632-0043 or email her at [jmdale@chippewaottawa.org](mailto:jmdale@chippewaottawa.org).

