

## The path to green power goes through Manistee



Michigan Land Use Institute

**By Jim Dulzo, Managing Editor, Michigan Land Use Institute**

MANISTEE — Responding to an effective critique by hundreds of citizens about the cost, environmental risks, and scant benefits of a proposed 425-megawatt, \$700 million coal-fired power plant, Manistee city officials this month soundly rejected the plan. Now an Indian tribe that helped organize opposition to the coal-fired utility says it plans to build what it calls a pollution-free “green” power project that would consist of wind turbines and other renewable energy generators on a portion of the approximately 1,000 acres of land it owns in Manistee county.

“We want to do it to benefit the tribe, other citizens, and the community,” Lee Sprague, the leader of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, said in an interview with the Great Lakes Bulletin News Service. “We could be a major work-force that could install them up and down the state and nationally.”

Though the proposal attracted enthusiastic public support here when Mr. Sprague made it public in February, state and national authorities said that even a wealthy tribe like the Little River Band will have significant difficulty financing the project. Federal government support for clean energy alternatives, which gained momentum during the Clinton administration, has waned dramatically during the Bush administration. The president and his advisors are counting on much greater consumption of fossil fuels — especially coal — to supply the nation’s electricity.

The tribe also cannot look to the state government for much help. Though 38 states provide tax incentives to support renewable energy, Michigan is not among them.

**Without U.S. and State, Tribe and Citizens Are On Their Own**

The pitched battle to defeat

the coal-fired power plant in this Lake Michigan coastal city, and the prodigious work that lies ahead to develop a more environmentally sensitive alternative, dramatically illustrates how complex changes in energy and environmental policy in Washington are producing real effects for citizens and their communities. The coal-fired power plant was prompted in large part by higher natural gas prices and the Bush administration’s direct support for fossil fuels.

Just as importantly, the swift transition from one popular campaign to block a polluting plant to another that develops a homegrown, cleaner alternative demonstrates how, in the absence of federal and state leadership, citizens are taking the initiative to work with business executives and local elected leaders to ensure this rural region of clean air and healthy forests remains that way.

Such struggles are occurring in countless communities across the country. Public opinion polls indicate that Americans strongly favor energy conservation and more green power projects. Renewable energy experts say, however, that the Bush administration is weakening air pollution control rules, and the proposed Energy Policy Act of 2003, now stalled in Congress, would offer few incentives to develop cleaner alternatives even if it passes.

“The United States has never had a consistent, comprehensive, or progressive national energy policy,” said Max Martina, executive director of the Alternative Energy Institute, a non-profit California-based group that promotes renewable energy. “Though some strides have been made within each presidential administration, in each case the gains were later reversed.”

Federal support for renewable energy reached its peak in the late 1970s under President Jimmy Carter. That year support for research and development of solar, hydropower, geothermal, and wind energy reached \$1.9 billion, according to the Energy Information Administration, a unit of the federal Department of Energy. By 1988, the Reagan Administration had slashed

the renewable energy budget to \$269 million. President Bill Clinton increased the renewable energy research and development budget to \$500

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— Lee Sprague, Ogemaw, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians on “green power.”

million in 2000, but under President Bush, the renewable budget has steadily declined to \$357.5 million for this fiscal year.

**In President’s Fossil Fuel Future Critics See Dirty Air, Ruined Land**

During a visit last September to Detroit Edison’s enormous coal-fired power plant in Monroe, Michigan President Bush described how his proposed energy bill is designed to turn loose America’s creativity to find ways to burn coal more cleanly, encourage conservation, and enable the country to “become less dependent on foreign sources of energy.”

“We lead the world in new technologies when it comes to energy, and we not only can find new ways of producing energy and make sure we do so in an efficient way, we can make sure we do so in a clean way,” said Mr. Bush. “I’m confident in predicting to the American people not only can we promote job security and increase jobs, but we can do so in a way that protects our environment. I believe we have a duty to do so. I believe a responsible nation is one that protects the environment.”

But the Natural Resources Defense Council, a New York-based national environmental organization, asserts that the president’s rhetoric doesn’t

match the reality of what would be a far more polluted and ruined landscape if the energy policy bill is approved. The current bill, S.2095, which the administration supports, contains approximately \$14 billion in tax credits and subsidies, most of it aimed at companies that either extract or burn fossil fuels for power generation, says the NRDC. It is designed, the group says, to encourage more consumption of fossil fuels by easing air pollution rules, offering hefty incentive for burning coal, oil, and gas, and opening vast stretches of the public domain to mining and drilling.

The proposed energy bill also speeds approvals for building new power plants and distribution grids, increases incentives for offshore gas and oil drilling, and continues controversial liability protection for the nuclear power industry. The proposal is enthusiastically supported by Michigan’s utility industry, including William McCormick, Jr., the chairman of CMS Energy, who served on Vice President Dick Cheney’s task force, which wrote most of the bill.

While environmentalists and the energy industry disagree about the effects of the proposal, one indisputable outcome is that the bill is clearly designed to increase coal production and use, which would moderate the price of electricity while offering nothing similar to help spur the development of clean, green power. “There is so much pork in this bill,” said Mr. Martina, “that it is very hard to chop through to the meat.”

**Green Power Works... Overseas**

Meanwhile, several other countries are taking a much different path. “The alternative energy industry is a \$6 billion sector and employs approximately 100,000 individuals worldwide,” Mr. Martina said, adding that half of those jobs are in Denmark, which generates 20 percent of its power from wind energy. He predicted that the sector would grow to \$10 billion by 2010 and would do even better if the U.S. enacted sweeping energy policy reforms: “Measures targeting renewable energy could more than quadruple that number to \$25 billion and account for the creation of an additional 315,000 jobs in the

U.S. by then, making the U.S. the leader in renewable energy employment.”

In response to the federal government’s disinterest in investing in renewable energy, green power entrepreneurs look to states for help. Advocates say the best way states can help grow green energy is to enact “renewable portfolio standards” that require utilities to include a certain percentage of green-generated power in their electricity mix.

Those that do — Texas, California, Minnesota, Indiana, Vermont, and nine others — are experiencing alternative energy booms, particularly with wind power. “It is interesting to note that when George Bush was governor of Texas,” said David Gard, a specialist at the Michigan Environmental Council in Lansing, “He signed such a thing and the wind industry there has taken off like crazy. States that do this are either well on their way or are already exceeding their portfolio requirements.”

Michigan State Representative Chris Kolb, an Ann Arbor Democrat, introduced portfolio legislation in the state House (H.B. 4970), but Mr. Gard said lawmakers aren’t terribly interested. “Don’t expect it to go very far with the current leadership in the Legislature,” he said of the Republican-led state House and Senate.

**Renewable Energy At Standstill in Michigan**

Without federal support, including the renewable energy production tax credit that lapsed last year, or state portfolio standards and tax breaks, renewable energy development in Michigan is at a standstill. Traverse City Light and Power built the state’s first utility-scale wind turbine in 1996; five years later, a small startup company built the state’s only two privately owned turbines, near Mackinaw City. Little has happened since then, despite the efforts of developers such as that company’s founder, Richard Vander Veen, who now calls his firm Mackinaw Power.

Mr. Vander Veen continues to recruit farmers along the state’s windy Lake Michigan coast who are willing to lease

*See Tribal Green Power, pg 8*

# CORA MEETING BRIEFS ...

## March 4

The Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority Board and Great Lakes Resource Committee met March 4, 2004, at Grand Traverse Resort. The first meeting held was the CORA board, followed by the GLRC.

### CORA

Fred Paquin of Sault Tribe chaired the March 4 Chippewa Ottawa Resource (CORA) meeting held at Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians' Grand Traverse Resort.

### REPORTS

CORA Public Information Officer Jennifer Dale reported participating in a Department of the Interior press conference with the opportunity to question Interior Secretary Gale Norton and USFWS Director Steve Williams and making a \$41,450 grant application to the Great Lakes Fishery Trust to generate numerous education materials. She said she fulfilled what she could of Travel Michigan literature requests for the Welcome Centers but that quantities of the now-dated literature were running low. She submitted a 2004 workplan and handed out EPA mercury hearings reports.

CORA Interim Executive Director Jane TenEyck reported next. The CORA board members reviewed the purpose of retaining a separate CORA lobbyist to work solely on CORA with no conflicts of interest. Board members agreed that timeliness and unity are important and decided to put the CORA stand on paper, as recommended by GTB Chairman Bob Kewaygoshkum. Bay Mills Chairman Jeff Parker said a 2-page appropriations request has already been developed. Paquin recommended that TenEyck look over the request with its author, ITFAP Director Tom Gorenflo, and fax it to board members for their response. The board approved the action plan.

TenEyck informed the board of a 2004 "cheat sheet" available for conservation officers for all sites. She told the council that she has received most of the 2004 CORA monies. Neither CORA nor ITFAP have Little River Band 2003 monies. LRB Natural Resources Commission Chairman Jimmy Mitchell said he would bring it back to his tribe and then contact TenEyck.

### FUNDING

Next on the agenda was 2004 funding matters. First,

Parker proposed make the CORA Public Information & Education program full-time and based at CORA offices. The half-time program is based at the Bay Mills Newspaper Department. The position is growing and fulfilling the workplan is growing increasingly difficult. The board liked the idea, so Dale was directed to work with TenEyck to draft a budget for the next meeting.

ITFAP Director Tom Gorenflo next described the difficulties involved in writing a budget when he doesn't know whether he'll receive funding from the other tribes. ITFAP is overseen by Sault Tribe. After discussion, Gorenflo was directed to work with LTBB Natural Resources Director Doug Craven, and for the two to work with Ettawageeshik to finish up.

TenEyck was also made Acting Executive Director at the meeting.

### GLRC

The CORA was adjourned and GLRC brought into session with the same roll call. First on the agenda was the election of a chairman and vice chairman. Because of a rotation of seats, Matson could not be reelected to the chair position.

Ettawageeshik was elected chairman. A motion was to make Matson vice chair was made, followed by a motion to make Grand Traverse Band Natural Resource Commission Chairman John Concannon vice chairman. Matson stepped aside to give Concannon a chance. He said he had served on COTFMA, CORA and GLRC since "the beginning of time" and is glad someone is willing to serve.

Vic Matson Sr. was honored by all present for his service.

Paquin said, "Vic is very honored in the tribe. There is no negative stuff about him, ever. He is a great teacher."

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

For Bay Mills, Conservation Committee Chairman Dave Menominee said matters were in-house plus looking into marketing opportunities that can be implemented now. They are actively seeking ideas and are meeting with Sault Tribe. They also opposing the extended Great Lakes shipping season, which is on the agenda.

GTB Natural Resource Commissioner George Bennett reported work on inland issues, whitefish marketing, reviewing the Consent Decree and other matters.

Jimmy Mitchell, natural resources commission chair for Little River Band, reported a new training program for fishers based on four 6-month blocks covering everything from gear to retail.

Mitchell added that Little River is concerned about preserving the historic sturgeon population in the face of the Wisconsin sturgeon stocking plan. Little River wants preserve the genetic stock of its area sturgeon and is considering asking for a moratorium.

LTBB Natural Resources Commission Chairman John Keezhik said they were considering four permits for the trap net zone by June 1. They are also looking into new ways to market.

For Sault Tribe, Matson said they subsidized fishers for the 2003 season. For the first time in history of tribal fishing, they just couldn't make it through the winter. He added that it was probably "one of the biggest things I ever did for the fishers," and thanked Gorenflo and Paquin.

He added that they are looking at marketing along with everyone else. Matson wants to meet with all the tribes, and take all ideas. In the past, commitments were made and money allocated, but nothing came of it but a study. This time, he wants action.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

Tribal Conservation Officer Kevin Willis reported for the Law Enforcement Committee. Top priority is nets left in the lake, he said; they think there are 12 or 13. They need to get something done right away because boating season is coming up.

Paquin said Sault Tribe has already spent \$7,000 pulling nets. He said they need trained men; pulling a trap net is dangerous. Left nets are a blemish on the tribes, he added; it makes the fisheries look bad.

GTB Fisheries Biologist Tina Frankenberger suggested changing the regulations to have the nets pulled rather than closed.

A discussion over the difference between untended nets and abandoned nets ensued. Abandoned nets have no identification.

Matson said that the state brought the trouble on by letting fishers just close nets rather than remove them. He directed that the matter be brought to the committees, then tribal councils, then back to CORA for April.

Paquin also pointed out that not everything that floats is

tribal. Everyone has to step up to the plate, he said.

Willis also asked for a clarification on the advisory group named in the Consent Decree. Tierney said that it's the state's responsibility. LRB Biologist Archie Martell added that citizens are supposed to call.

Willis then discussed vandalism in Rockport to two Bay Mills vessels. TenEyck said \$1,000 is still available for reward money. Willis will follow up with Crime Stoppers.

### BIOLOGISTS REPORTS

Erik Olsen for GTB reported that two fishers had passed on. He is ageing lake trout, entering data for MM-3,-4 and -5, and compiled modeling for 2004 lake trout TACs. He made a GLFT grant application for 147 aerial photos to go into GIS format. He also reported a Army Corps of Engineers permit review for Grand Traverse Bay pilot area for modified beach grooming plan; two grants in a pine marten study and a coaster brook study. He is also looking at the Wisconsin sturgeon stocking plan.

Paul Riddle, Bay Mills fishery biologist, is also reviewing the sturgeon proposal, working up data and readying for the upcoming season. LRB Biologist Archie Martell and LTBB Biologist Steve Lanart reported the same.

For ITFAP, Gorenflo asked that ITFAP Environmental Coordinator Mike Ripley be appointed to the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, a group at the highest level under the Act that reports to Congress. Ripley was appointed with Ettawageeshik and Martell as alternates.

For the Biological Services Division, Lanart presented 2004 whitefish hrs to go back to natural resource entities for review.

Second, he presented 2004 harvest regulations for whitefish. Matson commented that all natural resource entities had already approved. The GLRC passed the 2004 harvest regulations for whitefish.

Parker asked about figures for the Munising and Marquette. Matson said there was little fishing effort in that area last year. Gorenflo added that the model does not work in the case of little or no fishing effort.

Gorenflo asked about stocking notification procedures. He reported that Sault Tribe Attorney Jim Jannetta said the TFC is not following proper procedure for notifying parties. Now, some sort of resolution is

needed.

Next, opposition to permit for a coal-fired power plant in Manistee was approved.

Bay Mills Attorney Kathryn Tierney informed the group of an issue concerning private dock owners agreements with individual fishers. Now, agreements with individual fishers give law enforcement the right to search any place reasonably related to fishing activity without warrant or probable cause under state law. Although it is an information issue at this point, Paquin advised her to treat the matter with caution so as not to jeopardize the few places fishers have access.

Paquin then brought up the matter of a Rotary Park fishing pond for kids. Rotary Park is a City of Sault Ste. Marie island in the St. Marys. No fishing or netting is allowed under city regulations, but subsistence fishing could take place under CORA regulations. As it is supposed to be only for kids, Sault Tribe Attorney Aaron Schubler was directed to write a new section and bring it back for approval.

The GLRC next discussed the extended Great Lakes shipping season. Menominee wanted to know how the extra 15 days affected the fishery. Gorenflo said a Michigan State University study looked at the impact of winter navigation on River. There are also safety concerns, according to Gorenflo, who recalled a 1970s storm that pushed ice on residences in Whitefish Bay. Ripley was directed to draft something for the next meeting.

## April 23

CORA meetings were held April 23 at the Horizons Conference Center in Bay Mills Indian Community. The CORA board met first, followed by the GLRC.

### CORA

Sault Tribe Unit Director and Police Chief Fred Paquin chaired the April 23 meeting of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority.

### REPORTS

CORA Public Information Officer Jennifer Dale reported an upcoming newsletter May 6. She apologized for having been on a two-week vacation. She has coordinated with the LTBB editor to provide copied to be

*See "More CORA Meeting Briefs," page 7*

# THE LATEST ON AQUATIC EXOTIC SPECIES

## Study finds zebra mussels changing Hudson River habitat

MILLBROOK, N.Y. (AP) — Zebra Mussels have changed the underwater environment of the Hudson River and are causing the decline in some fish species, including shad, according to a new study.

Scientists at Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook and the state Department of Environmental Conservation Fisheries Unit in New Paltz found that the invading mussels have significantly altered the food supply in the river.

Zebra mussels, A European species that entered the Hudson from the discharged ballast of a ship in the early 1990s, eats by filtering the water of tiny plant and animal life. They have cleared the water enough for plants to grow in areas where sunlight could not previously reach.

The changed habit has allowed fish such as largemouth bass, which live in underwater weeds, to thrive, while it has hurt open-water fish like shad.

Larvae of American shad have declined 37 to 89 percent while the population of juvenile shad have fallen 6 to 61 percent, the study said.

David Strayer, of the Institute of Ecosystem Studies, said he does not expect any of the declining species to disappear from the river.

The study is to be published in the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

Another study released this month, conducted by researchers from Michigan State University's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, found that the presence of zebra mussels in inland lakes promotes the growth of a blue-green algae that produces a toxin harmful to people and animals.



Photo by Michigan Sea Grant

Above, numerous zebra mussels attach themselves to a stick.



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

## Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! Campaign unveiled by USFWS and its partners

WASHINGTON, D.C. — They are dangerous, expensive, quiet, tiny and some are able to double their numbers in a matter of hours, and they are hitching rides to invade pristine lakes, rivers and coastal resources. Now, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and their partners have unveiled a new national program called "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" along with a new instructive web site, at [www.protectyourwaters.net](http://www.protectyourwaters.net).

"Most of these aquatic invasive species tag along with people who are some of our best conservation partners," said Service Director Steve Williams. "They are the people who are out there for recreation — fishing, boating, diving, hunting and a lot more. Their conscientious efforts have already helped in this fight, and that's why it's important we lend a hand."

The "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" campaign features a long-term educational and outreach effort designed to elevate awareness about the spread of aquatic nuisance species throughout the United States, and offer advice, help and voluntary guidelines for aquatic recreation users.

The "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" campaign promotes some simple steps to recreational users every time they leave the water:

- Remove visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before moving it.
- Clean and dry anything that was in contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing - and even pets.)
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they were found there.

Many aquatic invaders entered the United States through the discharge of ballast water from international freighters and by other means. These species are often spread by people — unknowingly — as they engage in a number of recreational activities.

Many aquatic nuisance species — like the round goby, the zebra mussel or the sea lamprey — have not only reproduced and spread quickly, but have wreaked havoc with native species, have reduced game fish populations, ruined boat engines and industrial water intake systems, fouled water and power plants, made lakes and rivers unusable for boaters and swimmers, reduced property values and have even affected human health.

As part of the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" campaign, a web site has been designed for recreational users interested in helping to stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species. Located at [www.protectyourwaters.net](http://www.protectyourwaters.net), the site provides details on the recommended procedure to follow each time someone leaves a body of water, suggestions about how individuals and clubs can become involved to help stop invasions and information on the impact of nuisance species, along with detailed information on some of the more troublesome hitchhikers, and more.

Mamie Parker, Assistant Director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, said the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" campaign, which will rely on voluntary participation, includes a consortium of partners. The campaign is being developed by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, co-chaired by the Service and NOAA. Other members include the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service and the Department of State.

"In some cases, it may not be possible to roll back some of the damage, but we are convinced that by harnessing the energy of thousands of recreational users in this country, we can make a real difference," Williams said.



Photo by Michigan Sea Grant

Above, zebra mussels attach themselves to the native clam on the left. To the right, a native clam free of the exotic mussels.

## Study: Zebra mussels promote algae growth

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — A new study has found that the presence of zebra mussels in inland lakes promotes the growth of a blue-green algae that produces a toxin harmful to people and animals.

The study, conducted by researchers from Michigan State University's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, found that lakes infested with zebra mussels have, on average, levels of a blue-green algae called *Microcystis* three times higher than lakes without the mussels. The infested lakes also have about twice the level of microcystins — poisons produced by the algae.

While the findings may alarm some who live around such lakes, one of the study's authors cautions against panic.

"I'm not familiar with any instance of people being poisoned just by swimming," Orlando "Ace" Sarnelle, an associate professor at MSU, told The Daily Oakland Press for a Thursday story. "You have to ingest the water, and you have to consume large quantities."

The toxin can cause liver damage if it is consumed in large enough amounts.

The study included water samples from about 100 inland lakes in Michigan.

Sarnelle said the number of blue-green algae blooms has increased in Michigan's inland lakes and appears to be linked to the spread of the mussels. While the zebra mussels eat algae, they tend to steer clear of the toxic blue-green algae.

Sarnelle said in lakes where nutrient levels are naturally low, the concentration of the toxins is unlikely to be high enough to pose a risk to humans and animals.

The study, recently published in the academic journal "Limnology and Oceanography," found that the zebra mussels don't appear to affect the amount of *Microcystis* in lakes with high levels of phosphorus, a nutrient that results from erosion, fertilizer runoff and human waste.

"In a lot of lakes we've sampled, we're not seeing levels that are alarming — they're just higher than they used to be," he said.

While none of the inland lakes in the study provide drinking water, blue-green algae blooms have been observed in the Great Lakes, which provide drinking water for an estimated 40 million people. Standard water treatment techniques do not remove the toxins.

Sarnelle said he would classify *Microcystis* levels in parts of Lake Erie, Saginaw Bay and in some bays on the Canadian side of Lake Ontario as "serious."

Zebra mussels are native to the Caspian Sea, and scientists say they likely arrived in the Great Lakes region in the ballast water of ships. They are found in at least 184 Michigan lakes.

# Gov. Granholm leans against supporting Yellow Dog Mine

MARQUETTE, Mich. (AP) — Gov. Jennifer Granholm says she is leaning against supporting a possible sulfide mining project in Marquette County, the Associated Press reported April 16.

Kennecott Mining Co. is considering developing the nickel and copper mine in the Yellow Dog Plains area near Big Bay.

Opponents have voiced concern about water pollution and other environmental problems.

Interviewed by The Mining Journal on April 15, Granholm said she would await recommendations of a group reviewing state mining and reclamation rules before taking a position on the project.

But she added that "the risks to the (Lake Superior) resource are paramount. ... "We don't want to do anything that's going to harm the quality of the water."

"I just think that it's got to be looked at with great care," Granholm said. "The risks may be too great for us to head down that path."

Earlier this month, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality formed a group to monitor mineral explorations in the Yellow Dog Plains and in Menominee County.

In both cases, the companies haven't decided whether to proceed with mine development.

The minerals that would be targeted are sulfide ore bodies, which form sulfuric acid when brought to the surface and exposed to moisture and air.

Supporters point to the jobs and economic growth the Yellow Dog mine could create, but Granholm said they might not be around more than a decade.

"If we're concerned about jobs, let's create jobs that will last," she said.

**If we're concerned about jobs, let's create jobs that will last.**

— Governor Granholm on Yellow Dog mine jobs

## Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

### CORA Board, Officers and Committee officers

#### Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC or Bay Mills)

Jeff Parker, tribal chairman

Dave Menominee, Conservation Committee chairman

#### Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB)

Robert Kewaygoshkum, tribal chairman

John Concannon, Natural Resource Committee chairman, GLRC\* vice chairman

#### Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRB)

Lee Sprague, tribal chairman, CORA vice chairman

Jimmy Mitchell, Natural Resource Commission chairman

#### Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB)

Franl Ettawageeshik, tribal chairman, GLRC chairman

John Keeshik Jr., Natural Resource Commission chairman

#### Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Sault Tribe)

Fred Paquin, Tribal Unit 3 director, Chief of Police, and CORA chairman

Vic Matson Sr., Conservation Committee chairman

\* "Great Lakes Resource Committee," which serves as the inter-tribal management body for the treaty fishery in 1836 treaty waters.

### Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

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Deanna Bowen, secretary

Jennifer Dale, public information officer

# Study: Mercury-laden rain poses risk

By THOMAS J. SHEERAN

Associated Press Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — An environmental group surveyed the rainfall in Cleveland and found mercury levels that averaged eight times the limit set by the government as safe for surface water.

The National Wildlife Federation study was based on rainwater samples taken between Oct. 21 and Dec. 11. Earlier testing in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Illinois also showed elevated mercury levels in rainfall.

While the rainwater may be sending mercury into the food chain through fish, the federation didn't seek to make that scientific connection, according to Mike Murray, a federation staff scientist.

Drinking or touching rainwater with such levels of mercury is safe, but eating fish where mercury can become concentrated can be unhealthy, Murray said Wednesday.

The connection between mercury in rainwater and fish seemed obvious to Marnie Urso, 28, a nursing mother who works with the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund.

"Obviously, the rain gets into the water and it's part of the cycle," said Urso, who avoids fish because she nurses her 7-month-old daughter.

The state of Ohio already issues an array of fish-eating restrictions.

Seven years ago the state warned people to eat no more than one meal a week from fish caught anywhere in Ohio. In December, the state issued a more restrictive warning that women of child-bearing age and young children should eat only one meal of fish monthly from 15 Ohio rivers and lakes.

Linda Fee Oros, a spokeswoman with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, said the rain-surface level comparison could be misleading because it doesn't take into account the diluting of rain when it hits a river or lake.

She said mercury in rainfall was a concern but measurements aren't taken

by the agency. In addition, she said the agency hadn't reviewed the federation's findings, "So there isn't whole lot we can say about what they have done."

The U.S. EPA is considering limits on mercury emissions.

Mercury in fish is of special concern to women who are pregnant, nursing or may become pregnant because it can affect the developing brain and nervous system of their children.

Vita Kujauskas, who has run Lake Erie fishing charter trips out of Cleveland for 10 years, said fishermen are aware of the various advisories.

"They know about it. We do tell them about it if they don't know," he said.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife offered this advice to limit exposure to fish contaminants: eat only skinned and boned fish, removing as much fat as possible.

The federation said coal-fired power plants are the top source of mercury air emissions in the United States. It urged stricter government requirements on updating anti-pollution equipment.

"The (fish) warnings aren't going to protect people. What will protect people is getting mercury out of our food chain," Urso said.

Ellen Raines, a spokeswoman for FirstEnergy Corp., which operates coal-power plants in Ohio, said the utility supports improved pollution controls and has backed a mercury-control technology demonstration project. The utility needs time to find commercially feasible mercury emission controls that are cost-effective, Raines said.

**The (fish) warnings aren't going to protect people. What will protect people is getting mercury out of our food chain.**

— Marnie Urso, League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

## TROUT FARM CASE SETTLED

LANSING — Michigan Department of Natural Resources officials today announced the recent conclusion of negotiations with operators of an Antrim County trout farm.

Owners of the Green River Trout Farm in Chestonia Township agreed to a series of structural modifications to their facility that will better protect the Green River, a tributary of the Jordan River.

"We are very pleased to announce this settlement," said DNR Resource Deputy George Burgoyne. "By this agreement, the operators of this hatchery have signaled their strong commitment

to ensuring the future health of the Green and Jordan rivers. The hatchery can be operated effectively in a way that does not negatively impact the environment, so everyone wins."

Owners of the Green River Trout Farm agreed to the following:

- \* Restore the 25-foot natural vegetation buffer along the Green River

- \* Fill and restore the pond closest to the Green River

- \* Remove from production and fill raceways 7 and 10

- \* Install double screens at the intake and outlet of the facility

- \* Comply with the Jordan River Natural

River Plan and Rules for future development within the Natural River District

- \* Allow the DNR, working in partnership with the owners of the Green River Trout Farm and others, to remove the existing trout farm dam and restore the Green River to a more natural, free-flowing condition.

The agreement allows the Green River Trout Farm to operate in a manner that offers greater resource protection for the Green River than currently exists and creates an option for the Department of Natural Resources to improve the currently impounded section of the Green River to a more natural condition.

# Scientists working on new microwaved salmon product

By **PATTY SULLIVAN**  
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska

(AP) — With a few phone calls and e-mails, Ketchikan fisherman Johnny Rice may have helped Alaska's wild salmon out of the metal can and into a new niche market.

Researchers in Washington state say they are close to perfecting a new method of microwaving food that not only gives salmon a grocery-store shelf life but delivers a fillet of restaurant-quality straight from a pouch — no refrigeration necessary.

"It sounds pretty revolutionary to me," said Rice, who has fished on a seiner for salmon since 1989. "I'm looking forward to taste testing."

The 40-year-old fisherman is known in fishing circles for seining the Internet on his laptop for the latest in fisheries news. That's how he noticed a snippet two years ago about a new technology called microwave food processing.

"It got me personally," Rice said recently, while on a short break on land from halibut fishing. "I guess you could say as a fisherman, why not ask the big questions: Where are we going? What's going on? We can't get rid of our fish."

Since about 1996, Rice said, fish processors have not been able to deal with the dramatic increase in the catch of pink salmon, so they haven't been buying as much. As recently as December, processors had some 890,000 cases of canned pink salmon in Alaska warehouses.

When Rice learned of the microwave technology, he hoped a food scientist was already at work on a new way to package and distribute salmon beyond the can, so he called to find out. Apparently, no one was. But Rice's calls piqued

the interest of Bill Woolf, a legislative aide for then-Sen. Frank Murkowski.

It wasn't long before salmon joined macaroni and cheese for tests in the microwave lab at Washington State University in Pullman, and seafood processors were invited to join in, along with the Department of Defense.

"I had conversations with four or five of the major salmon processors to let them know that there was a guy working on this technology, and we thought it was pretty interesting and hoped someone would pursue it," Woolf said. "Ocean Beauty moved quickly enough. They pitched in money."

Seattle-based Ocean Beauty is the largest producer of Alaska canned salmon. Jim Yonker, Ocean Beauty's director of food safety, said the seafood company is looking at microwaved salmon, for starters, as an opportunity in a niche market.

"There's the potential to replace canned products," Yonker said. "Customers will make that decision for us."

Ocean Beauty is but one of the developers working with the Pentagon and Washington State University. Also included are the food processing companies Kraft Foods Inc., Hormel Foods, Truitt Brothers Inc., M&M Mars and the packaging and equipment companies Rexam Containers, Graphic Packaging and Ferrite Component.

The microwave research first began in the 1990s at WSU, led by Juming Tang, a professor in the biological systems engineering department.

While microwave sterilization is almost unheard of by U.S. consumers, shoppers in Japan and Belgium have been buying microwaved products off the shelves for at least eight

## We're talking about a quantum leap in food quality.

— *Tom Yang, a senior food technologist*

years, Tang said. Those products are cooked using what is essentially a domestic microwave. His group's process uses energy with three times the wavelength, he said.

"The quality of the product is astonishing," said Scott Smiley, director of the Fishery Industrial Technology Center in Kodiak, which recently received \$600,000 from the state, in part to research microwave salmon this summer.

When the design of the microwave is finished, Smiley said, Ocean Beauty in Kodiak is going to get one of the first operational machines.

The process hasn't been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. However, Woolf said he doesn't think the regulatory requirements are insurmountable.

Research is continuing, but the consumer advantages seem to be adding up. For one, experts say, canning tends to overcook the outer portion of food, while microwaves don't.

"The simple explanation is that food is transparent to microwaves. It heats the whole thing all the way through from the start," Smiley said.

So drastic is the promised change in flavor and appearance that Sen. Lisa Murkowski

believes it will revolutionize Alaska's salmon industry by increasing consumer demand.

"The process is faster, better and cheaper than canning," Murkowski said. "With a little work this technique can produce a skinless, boneless salmon product that looks and tastes like a freshly broiled salmon fillet."

Murkowski unveiled the preliminary results last month in Kodiak.

Food scientists for the military are involved because they've been trying to spice up field rations by including a greater variety of food, including salmon.

"We're talking about a quantum leap in food quality," compared to the canning process now used for the military's ready-to-eat entrees, said

Tom Yang, a senior food technologist at the Combat Feeding Directorate in Natick, Mass.

The microwave process also cuts cooking time from about 90 minutes down to 10 minutes, while preserving the color, aroma, flavor, texture and appearance of food.

With canning, Yang said, "the fish turns a grayish color, has a strong metallic flavor and has a pasty look. It loses all of its nice fiber alignment of a fillet."

Yang said soldiers' food rations could get the microwaved salmon in three to five years, pending federal approval.

On the Net:  
[www.alaskareport.com](http://www.alaskareport.com)  
[www.natick.army.mil/soldier](http://www.natick.army.mil/soldier)  
[www.bsyse.wsu.edu/](http://www.bsyse.wsu.edu/)

## Boaters asked to watch out for hydrilla plant

By **Tim Martin**  
Associated Press Writer

LANSING, Mich. (AP)

— Aquatic researchers in Michigan want state boaters and anglers to be on the outlook for a potential plant invader called hydrilla.

The nonnative plant has not been found in Michigan but has popped up in New York and Pennsylvania waters. Its tangled weeds interfere with swimming, boating and even fishing because it can choke off food supplies for other aquatic life. Some researchers say it can also destroy food sources for ducks and other waterfowl.

"We want people to look for it, but we're hoping they don't find it," said Carol Swinehart of the Michigan Sea Grant Program at Michigan State University. "We don't want hydrilla in Michigan."

Some researchers consider hydrilla the most problematic aquatic plant in the United States. Native to parts of Asia, the plant once used in the aquarium trade was discovered in Florida waters in the 1950s and has since spread as far away as California and Washington.

Its appearance near the Great Lakes has alarmed researchers who fear the plant could soon make its way to Michigan. The plant could hitchhike on boats or trailers that move from one place to another, researchers say.

Some researchers believe the hydrilla plant would cause more havoc than the Eurasian watermilfoil, an aquatic invader

that is already here. The watermilfoil has bothered boaters and swimmers at Roscommon County's Houghton Lake and other Michigan waters in recent years.

Hydrilla is tough to get rid of once it finds a new home. Florida, South Carolina and a few other states have spent millions of dollars fighting hydrilla with limited success.

Hydrilla plants can grow underwater with very little light, developing thick mats of vegetation. Plants can grow up to an inch a day.

The plant looks similar to the elodea, a plant already in Michigan, with a few key differences. Hydrilla plants have four or five leaves at each node, while elodea has three. Hydrilla leaves have visible teeth, and the leaf vein has small spines. Elodea leaves and their veins appear smooth.

Hydrilla is one of more than a dozen plants that would be banned from sale or delivery in Michigan under a package of bills soon to be introduced in the state Senate.

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, says nonnative species are the biggest single threat to the health of the Great Lakes.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Department of Environmental Quality director Steven Chester said recently that hydrilla will be a special focus of Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week June 7-13.

*Ed. note: See [www.miseagrant.org](http://www.miseagrant.org) for a downloadable Hydrilla brochure.*

## Humphries selected DNR Director

Rebecca A. Humphries, a 25-year veteran employee of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, was selected on April 19 to be the next DNR Director according to a news release.

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission unanimously selected Humphries, who currently is the DNR Wildlife Division Chief, from among five finalist candidates following a national search.

"We were very impressed with the interview performances of all the finalist candidates," said NRC Chairman Keith Charters. "I am pleased

that the Commission unanimously supported selecting the next DNR Director from within the Department's ranks. Becky's experience, management approach and strong relationships with the DNR's constituent and stakeholder groups will help guide the agency toward a successful future."

Humphries' background includes experience in four DNR divisions, with extensive field management experience. Her diverse range of duties in the agency has included area field wildlife biologist to acting resource management deputy, directing and coordinating the

work of several divisions.

"It is imperative we move into the future of resource management in this great state with a strong commitment to our natural resources, our agency, and our many partners," Humphries said. "I look forward to working with our dedicated staff and all our stakeholders. Collectively, we can make a difference in preserving the integrity of our natural resources for future generations."

Humphries, an avid waterfowler and turkey hunter, replaces K. L. Cool, whose contract is set to expire June 1.

# GOOD NEWS FOR 1836 TRIBES: FDA and EPA announce the revised consumer advisory on methylmercury in fish

*The following joint EPA-FDA press release is good news for tribal fisheries, in which Lake Superior whitefish are very low in contaminants, particularly mercury. — Jen Dale, editor*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 19, 2004) — The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today their joint consumer advisory on methylmercury in fish and shellfish for reducing the exposure to high levels of mercury in women who may become pregnant, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and young children. This unifies advice from both FDA and EPA and supercedes FDA's and EPA's 2001 advisories.

The FDA and EPA want to emphasize the benefits of eating fish — consumers should know that fish and shellfish can be important parts of a healthy and balanced diet. They are good sources of high quality protein and other

essential nutrients; however, as a matter of prudence, women might wish to modify the amount and type of fish they consume if they are planning to become pregnant, pregnant, nursing, or feeding a young child. By following these three recommendations for selecting and eating fish or shellfish, women will receive the benefits of eating fish and shellfish and be confident that they have reduced their exposure to the harmful effects of mercury.

1. Do not eat shark, swordfish, king mackerel, or tilefish because they contain high levels of mercury.

2. Eat up to 12 ounces (two average meals) a week of a variety of fish and shellfish that are lower in mercury.

— Five of the most commonly eaten fish that are low in mercury are shrimp, canned light tuna, salmon, pollock, and catfish.

— Another commonly eaten fish, albacore ("white") tuna has more mercury than canned light tuna. So, when

choosing your two meals of fish and shellfish, you may eat up to six ounces (one average meal) of albacore tuna per week.

3. Check local advisories about the safety of fish caught by family and friends in your local lakes, rivers and coastal areas. If no advice is available, eat up to six ounces (one average meal) per week of fish you catch from local waters, but don't consume any other fish during that week.

Follow these same recommendations when feeding fish and shellfish to your young child, but serve smaller portions.

"This revised advisory is a culmination of months of hard work by both agencies," said FDA Deputy Commissioner, Lester M. Crawford, D.V.M., Ph.D. "By following this advice, we're confident that women and young children can safely include fish as an important part of a healthy diet."

In July 2002, FDA's Food Advisory Committee met and

made several recommendations to FDA on how to revise its 2001 consumer advisory on methylmercury in fish with special concern for pregnant women, nursing mothers, women who may become pregnant, and young children. One recommendation was for FDA and EPA to coordinate mercury advisories on commercial fish and recreational fish and say something specific about canned tuna.

In December 2003, FDA's Food Advisory Committee met again to be updated on the progress FDA had made in responding to their recommendations. At that time the committee recommended listing in the advisory fish that are low in mercury.

Since the December 2003 meeting and the period of time between the two meetings, FDA and EPA have been working together toward the goal of providing an updated consumer advisory in response to the recommendations from the Food Advisory Committee. This work has

included conducting ongoing interagency meetings; conducting field assignments which provided additional testing of mercury in fish for which there were low sample sizes; sampling over 3400 cans of tuna; undertaking exposure assessments using these new data; and conducting focus group testing on the revised advisory.

"Our guidance allows consumers to make educated dietary choices for fish they catch or buy," said EPA's Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water Benjamin Grumbles. "With a few simple adjustments, consumers can continue to enjoy these foods in a manner that is healthy and beneficial."

As part of announcing the revised consumer advisory, FDA and EPA plan to launch a comprehensive outreach and educational campaign.

Additional information can be found at: [www.cfsan.fda.gov](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov) or the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/ost/fish](http://www.epa.gov/ost/fish)

## South Texas schools add fish oil to fortify fatty lunch fare

DALLAS (AP) — At some South Texas schools, a new plan for serving nutritious meals to children is a little fishy.

Old favorites like pork tamales, breakfast tacos with bacon and nacho cheese are injected with oil taken from a small, herringlike fish. The oil contains omega-3 fatty acids, which research has linked to positive health effects, including decreased risk of heart attacks.

But critics are skeptical of the benefits from adding a healthy fat to unhealthy foods. They say the quantity of omega-3 added to foods is too small to have any health benefit.

Earlier this month, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs issued a new school nutrition policy with restrictions on fried and other fatty foods, setting rules for types of foods that can be served in public schools.

Advocates of fish oil say it's a way to make lunchtime healthier without getting rid of children's favorite foods.

"I'd say this is a milestone," Margaret Lopez, who leads the child nutrition program of the Texas Education Agency's Region I that

includes districts in the Rio Grande Valley, told The Dallas Morning News in Monday's editions.

However, others say they'd rather put their energies into teaching kids how to eat better than adding a bit of nutrition to fatty tamales.

"Why do we need to disguise and manipulate it?" asked Stacy Kennedy, a clinical nutritionist at Boston's Dana Farber Cancer Institute. "Why are we sneaking it in?"

Houston-based Omega Protein Corp., one of the nation's largest fish oil producers, saw Mercedes-based H&H Foods, a meat processor that is one of the Southwest's largest school lunch suppliers, as a potential partner. The idea was to fortify the tamales, tacos, cheese sauce and other foods that H&H produces for schools with Omega fish oil produced from menhaden.

Some studies have also shown that fatty acids from the oil can fight learning disabilities and behavioral disorders.

"I call it the preventative maintenance solution," said Harold Goode, Omega Protein's director of food service. "It's very good for brain development."

When fish oil replaced some of the saturated fats in the regular foods, initial results weren't encouraging.

"I'm not going to tell you we hit the nail on the head first time out of the box," said Ruben Hinojosa Jr., vice president for sales and marketing at H&H, which is owned by the Hinojosa family, including U.S. Rep. Ruben Hinojosa.

## WHY COVER IT UP? FISH IS DELICIOUS!

Why extract fish oil and hide it in tamales? As long as it is not breaded and fried, fish is a tasty, healthful menu choice. Collect your own fiddleheads to make:

### Whitefish Baked with Fiddlehead Ferns

1/2 c White wine  
2 tbsp Dijon mustard  
4 whitefish fillets (@7 oz)  
Salt & white pepper to taste  
1/2 tsp thyme  
3/4 lb fiddlehead ferns (or asparagus)

1 md onion; finely diced  
2 tbsp unsalted butter

Preheat oven to 375° F.

Combine wine and mustard in a 3-inch deep baking dish just large enough to hold the whitefish fillets in one layer. Place the whitefish in the wine and sprinkle with salt, pepper and thyme. Place onions and

But fish-oil infusions are now indistinguishable from the old favorites, according to taste-testers. The 38 school districts in the lower Rio Grande Valley buy much of their food via a cooperative run by Region I. Last month, the fishy foods were formally added to the list of foods schools can buy through the co-op.

fiddleheads on top, cover the dish and place in the oven for 20 minutes. Remove baking dish from the oven. Arrange a bed of onions and fiddleheads on a platter and place the fish on top. Swirl butter into the cooking liquid and pour over the fish. Serve immediately.

Spice up spring with:

### Cajun Whitefish

1 tbsp paprika  
2-1/2 tsp salt  
1 tsp onion powder  
1 tsp garlic powder  
1 tsp cayenne pepper  
3/4 tsp white pepper  
3/4 tsp black pepper  
1/2 tsp thyme  
1/2 tsp oregano  
cooking oil  
4 tbsp melted butter  
2 whitefish fillets

Mix all seasonings and keep extra in a dry sealed bag or

The Texas Department of Agriculture's new rules require cuts in the amount of fatty food put on children's plates, starting Aug. 1.

"If they're going to have tamales regardless, they may as well go with omega-3 tamales," said Priscilla Conners, a University of North Texas professor and registered dietitian.

jar. Heat a large skillet with cooking oil over high heat. In a small dish melt butter. Dip each fillet in butter then roll in seasonings to coat fish on both sides. Place fish in skillet and cook until underside looks charred, turn and finish cooking. Serve with melted butter. (From Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation; [www.freshwaterfish.com](http://www.freshwaterfish.com))

FISH! You can grill it, barbecue it, poach it, steam it, and bake it. If you're on a busy schedule, you don't even have to worry about defrosting. Cook fish while it is still frozen or icy. Fish can be cooked from a frozen state by adapting the recipe, cooking for longer at a slightly lower temperature. Allow an extra 10 minutes for each inch of thickness of fillet.

# MORE CORA MEETING BRIEFS —

## From Page 2

inserted into the new LTBB newspaper, Odawa Trails. She will hear the results of her GLFT grant application in early May, has pdf copies of USFWS grants if needed (the Interior Internet has been down), and worked with GLIFWC to help with its Spring newsletter report on CORA. She said GLIN (Great Lakes Information Network) had written to request sponsors in exchange for publicity, and as the GLIN site had an incredible 64 million hits for 2003, it might be worthwhile for CORA or any of the individual tribes. She was also contacted by National Wildlife Federation Attorney Michelle Holly, who had heard CORA was opposed to the Yellow Dog mining proposal, so referred Holly to Mike Ripley.

Lastly, Dale worked up a full-time CORA Public Information & Education program budget proposal with CORA Acting Executive Director Jane TenEyck that would appear later in the agenda.

Under the Executive Director report, TenEyck said that the appropriations letter did not make the deadline for appropriations, but that Kildee's office send out a letter. She has a daily log of efforts to finish the letter and referred the matter to Little Traverse Bay Bands Chairman Frank Ettawageeshik.

CORA has set up a Executive Council meeting for July 15 in Traverse City. Grand Traverse Band Attorney Bill Rastetter reminded the group that July is the height of tourist season and to schedule space early.

The board next approved TenEyck's request to spend \$1200 for building upkeep, such as painting the exterior, fixing leaks and so forth.

Ettawageeshik addressed the appropriations request matter, saying over the past year, his tribe had been working to get \$1 million in reoccurring funds, plus additional funds. (The \$1 million is now in the President's budget, but whether its reoccurring is unclear.) He told the group that he made an agreement on a conference call that he felt was different than what was expressed in the letter. Tribal Chairman Jeff Parker also had changes in regards to the way the letter referenced other tribes. After further discussion, Ettawageeshik told the group he thinks the \$1 million is likely; any extra unlikely. He said now is the time to

start work on the 2006 appropriations. Paquin and Parker agreed. A motion to request \$1.523 million for 2006 passed.

The Natural Resources Commissioner representing Grand Traverse Band that day, George Bennett, suggested a committee to handle appropriations.

The Public Information & Education budget was discussed. The board agreed on a July 1 start date, and funding for one-half of 2004 and for all of 2005. Each tribe would contribute \$11,000 each year, with the just under \$10,000 in start up costs to come from unused director's pay monies. The budget is to be ratified at the June meeting.

An \$8,000 contract renewal for Bay Mills Attorney Kathryn Tierney to handle CORA legal work was approved.

Little Traverse Natural Resources Commission Chairman John Keeshik said his commission requested a CORA line item by set up to handle trap net removal and suggested using unused director's pay monies. The board discussed the number of nets and the pay for each net.

Matson asked for last years' costs. Gorenflo said four nets were removed from Bay de Noc area for \$4,000. Paquin added that it depends on conditions — nets at 20 feet are easy; nests at 100 feet are a mess. Also, Sault Tribe gave salvage rights to the puller.

Little Traverse Conservation Officer and Law Enforcement Committee Chair Kevin Willis said there are 12 to 15 nets that would cost an average of \$1200 to \$1500 to pull.

TenEyck wanted to know how to pay contractees. Paquin said there has to be a cap. Menominee suggested taking the matter back to their natural resource entities.

Willis said he didn't want to wait two months. A net marking system is also needed. Sprague suggested a salvage contract with set fees. Ettawageeshik suggested approving \$10,000 and to start pulling. The situation could be assessed in June for any modifications. Tierney suggested law enforcement verify locations, prioritize and inform TenEyck. Willis added he wants to be present when the nets are pulled.

The board will go forward with Ettawageeshik's and Tierney's suggestions.

Next, a \$15,000 professional services contract with a

professor of linguistics and an assistant was approved.

A motion to reallocate funds from a now-defunct Pendills project to the Whitefish Point project was also approved.

CORA Resource Developer Bucko Teeple said that McKay Bay needs dredging but it has to wait until after spawning season, as required by the permit. The board ordered Dale to send a notice to tribal newspapers.

Menominee brought up the matter of unsportsman-like behavior on the lakes, such as dumping rotten fish into others' nets. He said such people should be identified and their licenses' suspended. Tierney said that such behavior is actually net tampering or vandalism and is a federal offense. Letters will be sent to the fishers.

The CORA board set a tentative date of June 18 for the next meeting, to be hosted by Little Traverse.

## GLRC

The GLRC meeting was chaired by Frank Ettawageeshik.

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE / NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION REPORTS

John Keeshik said the LTBB EDC requested approval for a permit for GTB fisher Skip Duhamel. He will help LTBB fishers while tending his own nets. The Little Traverse Bands's EDC also purchased Bell's Fishery. A Grand Opening is planned for Memorial Day on May 27. The plan is to stabilize the price for fish at 80¢. They will try that the first year and hopefully expand marketing opportunities after that.

LRB Natural Resources Commission Chairman Jimmy Mitchell said there was a lot of support opposing the proposed Manistee coal-burning power plant — the Manistee Planning Commission resolved to refuse permit. Mitchell thanked GTB Attorney Bill Rastetter for his help with the petition to the Corps for the LRB sturgeon project. One fisher is doing well, he reported and the other is "on the rocks."

Reporting for Bay Mills, Menominee said Gorenflo attended the last meeting and presented his draft report on cormorants, went over seasons and harvest limits, and looked at trap net efforts. Law Enforcement reported on tagging trap nets and what the

DNR wants for tagging. Law Enforcement requested a form with fisher's cell phones in case they need help. The rest was in-house.

GTB Natural Resources Commission Chairman John Concannon reported that one fisher wants to drop trap nets and go back to gill nets. It was a bad year for fishing, and one-time only subsidizing was nice. The rest was in-house.

Matson said his committee agreed to Lake Huron limits and voted to raise the lake trout bag limit from 400 to 500 pounds. They are also trying to get a marketing committee up and running. The rest was in-house.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

Reporting for the Law Enforcement Committee, Willis said the committee appreciates CORA moving forward on nets. Groups patrols will start up soon. He asked for a clarification on the Crime Stoppers reward. Rewarding everything with \$1,000 was a concern; it should be brought back to CORA for release of funds.

The GLRC discussed the purpose of the reward. Ettawageeshik said the reward is for an arrest and conviction and to make the actions stop.

## BIOLOGISTS

Bay Mills Fishery Biologist Paul Ripple reported attending a Biological Services Division meeting and would refer to the BSD on that. He is conducting in-house commercial fish monitoring and preparing for assessments. He recommended to the Bay Mills Conservation Committee to keep the MH-1 400-pound bag limit in place (it expires April 30) because it seems to be working.

For ITFAP, Gorenflo first referred to Ripley, who reported in the Great Lakes shipping season extended to Jan. 31. He said biological studies in the St. Marys should be conducted. He is looking over other river studies by tribes and a lawsuit filed the Mohawks concerning a lower Hudson extended season to see what CORA can do.

Ripley next reported on the Aquatic Hitchhikers Campaign sponsored by the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to stop the spread of exotic species from boating.

Last, he recommended a resolution to oppose sulfide mining such as the proposed Yellow Dog mine in the U.P. It creates acid mine drainage that can kill fish and entire streams. The proposed mine is near the last home of native coaster brook trout in

United States. The state has no rules on sulfide mining and has formed a committee, so CORA could have some influence by acting now.

The GLRC directed Ripley to write a resolution opposing sulfide mining.

Gorenflo reported on cormorant control. The USDA was appropriated \$100,00 for 2004 to initiate cormorant control and research. Les Cheneaux Islands was chosen for a pilot project. The USDA planned to kill adults, oil eggs and tag 75 birds with transmitters to track migration and foraging. In the face of an environmentalist organization lawsuit against the project, the USDA will probably still be able to oil eggs.

Gorenflo then brought up stocking notification and response. If a party of the Consent Decree wants to change stocking, it must notify the parties. Gorenflo feels that if CORA objects, it must have a rationale, even though the burden is on the party that wants to stock.

On the matter of the state's walleye stocking proposal, Gorenflo said the DNR lacks proper data — it is old data and the DNR did not give enough information.

On state Chinook stocking, Gorenflo said pursuant to the Consent Decree, the state is systematically reducing stocking at Nunns creek. In 2003, the state was required to stock 300,000 at Nunns. It decided since it was "saving" 200,000 fingerlings, it stocked 100,000 at Cheboygan in May 2003 without noticing the parties. The DNR said at a TFC meeting that no TFC review was needed because it had reduced stocking at Nunns. He wonders if they will try the same this year.

Tierney said parties have to notice any changes from 1999. It does not matter where the fish came from. She suggested giving the state a letter at the TFC meeting, if necessary.

For Grand Traverse Band, Biologist Tina Frankenberger reported tending lamprey nets while readying for the new season, finishing walleye scales, issuing new permits and sampling the commercial harvest.

For LRB, Mitchell reported that Beluga sturgeon have been placed on the Threatened list, which could shift the market by creating increased pressure on poaching. He suggested keeping an eye on it.

See CORA meets April 23, page 8

## From CORA meets April 23, page 7

For LTBB, Steve Lanart reported readying for the field season, and planning assessments the next week.

As chair of the Biological Services Division, Lanart handed out a report. He commented that since the BSD will tend to overlap with other reports. He presented the lake trout harvest for 2004 that must be finalized by April 30.

Recommended language to amend regulations included adding a definition of abandoned nets, additional markings for trap nets, identifier tags, seasonal net removal, and authorization for Law Enforcement Committee to remove abandoned and unattended nets. The amendments were tabled pending a request for further break down of amendments and a necessity for final language to go back natural resource entities approval. The motion to table passed with five voting "yes" and four opposed.

A Bay Mills fisher suggested putting the tag on one of the most durable parts of the net. However, Paquin said that is also a section of the gear from which tags can be easily cut.

A new section to CORA regulations was passed with the following language:

"Section XIX Subsistence Fishing, subsection (n): In the City of Sault Ste. Marie's Kids Fishing Pond at Rotary Park Island, all fishing activity shall be in accordance with those regulations imposed by the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the State of Michigan."

The GLRC passed a resolution making CORA's position that the 15 percent rule should be applied pre-penalty, which better follows the intent of Consent Decree. The 15 percent rule is meant to cover a situation where the lake trout harvest limit is continuously exceeded by an amount less than the 15 percent trigger rather than a situation where an annual penalty has already been applied. To do otherwise could result in a triple penalty

— three years in a row — for a single overharvest. Instead, the 15 percent rule should be applied pre-penalty, using the previous year's harvest limit prior to the application of any penalties.

Next, the GLRC voted to extend special regulations in MH-1 intertribal zone setting a lake trout bag limit at 400 pounds. Matson said Sault Tribe voted for 500 pounds. Gorenflo added that the 500 pound limit would allow fishers to keep dead discards — throwing the dead fish back bothers the fishers. But, the 400 pound figure came from a study of incidental versus target fishing. The GLRC's vote passed with Matson opposing.

Preliminary lake trout harvest figures were presented by Lanart.

Parker said that he opposes the preliminary figure the BSD presented for MH-1, per CORA's position. So, figures were accepted by a vote GLRC with no penalty in 133 and 413.

The GLRC then discussed the failure of the model in MI-6, due to a flaw in the model when little fishing effort takes place. GLRC voted to go on record stating that the model is wrong in MI-6.

Gorenflo discussed lamprey mortality increases due to lamprey control for Lake Michigan. The Consent Decree assumes that lamprey control efforts will significantly reduce lamprey mortality rates from 1998 levels. That is true for Lake Huron, but not Lake Michigan due to an increase in lamprey in the Manistique River system. The assumption will have an impact on the phase-in management units MM-1, -2 and -3 unless something is done.

GLRC directed the matter be placed on the Executive Council agenda, along with stocking notification, the three-year penalty issue and MH-1, and the 15 percent change rule.

A tribal-only Executive Council pre-meeting was scheduled for 11:30 July 15.

**See our new brochure at [www.1836cora.org](http://www.1836cora.org)**

"Tribal Fishing" is published by the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) Public Information & Education program. The program is administrated by the Bay Mills Indian Community Newspaper Department.

Please direct all inquiries to Jennifer Dale, 12140 W. Lakeshore Dr., Brimley, MI 49715, 906-248-2258, [newspaper@bmic.net](mailto:newspaper@bmic.net).

Beginning July 1, the Public Information & Education office will be located at the CORA building: 170 W. Third St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, 906-632-0043. A new email will also be announced.

Permission must be obtained to reprint any matter in this newsletter. Submissions and letters welcome at the above address. Please use your full name & address.

## ATTENTION FISHERS: Take care at McKay Bay

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority advises vessels using the McKay Bay access site to take care due to low water levels. Although CORA's permits are approved, dredging cannot take place until after spawning season. Since the permit prohibits dredging from April 1 to June 30, CORA plans to dredge in early July. For more information, please contact CORA Acting Executive Director Jane TenEyck at 906-632-0043.

### NET TAMPERING AND VANDALISM IS ILLEGAL AND DANGEROUS



**Tampering with any net,  
and that includes vandalism, is a  
VIOLATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.  
If you see a net you think is illegally set, or  
see someone attempting to tamper with a  
net, call your local law enforcement agency.**

### News "Bites"

#### Sault Tribe continues program

SAULT STE. MARIE — Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indian April 21 board meeting, the board approved continuation of the Sault Tribe's Inland Hunting and Fishing License program, which last year licensed 875 permits to tribal members.

Sault Tribe St. Ignace-area Unit Director and CORA Chairman Fred Paquin reported that the treaty hunting and fishing program has caused very few problems from an enforcement standpoint. He urged permit holders to adhere strictly to permit reporting rules to bolster the tribe's case in pending litigation with the state.

#### Little Traverse buys Bell's

MACKINAW CITY — Little Traverse Bay Bands purchased Bell's Fisheries in Mackinaw City, a 50-year retail and wholesale fish business in the waterfront downtown of Mackinaw City. LTBB's Natural Resource Dept and EDC worked on the project together and will host a grand opening on Memorial Day. John Keezhik hopes to stabilize the fish price at 80¢ per pound, he said at the April 23 CORA meeting, and after

that, expand marketing opportunities. In his report in Odawa Trails, Frank Ettawageeshik said the tribe will be in the business of not only catching fish, but marketing them as well.

#### Malfunxion kills coho yearlings

BEULAH, Mich. (AP) — The Michigan Department of Natural Resources lost nearly half of this year's coho salmon production because of a pump failure at the Platte River Fish Hatchery.

The 458,000 coho yearlings, which would have been stocked within a month, died last weekend when a pump that recirculates the water in the raceways continued to run but quit pumping water, Booth News Service reported.

There are 610,000 fingerlings left, almost all of which will be stocked in the Platte River. The cohos were to be planted in Lake Michigan at the Galien, St. Joseph, Boardman, Grand and Manistee rivers as well as Portage Lake. The additional 25,000 were planned for Munising Bay.

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small plots of land for large-scale turbines. He said he's finding plenty of willing partners. But Mr. Vander Veen, frustrated by the unwillingness of Michigan utilities to sign long-term contracts to purchase power from the turbines, has joined another company, North American Wind Energy, to formally request that the Michigan Public Service Commission force Consumers Energy, a CMS Energy subsidiary, to greatly expand its green power purchase program.

The electricity from Mr. Vander Veen's two turbines has been sold out through that program, which charges a small "green" premium to consumers willing to pay the higher rate, since the machines began operation. But the company refuses to expand the program. "Can we get the utilities to actually work with those who would want to be entrepreneurs, put up wind power, and take all the risks?" Mr. Vander Veen said. "The key piece is getting the utilities to sign long-term power purchase agreements."

Without such contracts, federal production tax credits, state tax relief, and portfolio requirements, banks are unwilling to back commercial renewable energy projects, which they view as too risky. In Manistee, the Little River Band does have some advantages that established wind developers lack, including sovereign-nation status, a hefty income from the large casino it owns north of the city, and access to federal programs for tribal green power development. But no one, least of all the tribe's leaders, believes what lies ahead in developing cleaner energy sources will be easy.

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