



Newsletter of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, 'Conserving for Future Generations'

WHAT NON-COMMERCIAL TRIBAL FISHERS NEED TO KNOW FOR THE 2001 SEASON

Below are selections from CORA Regulations for recreational and subsistence fishing. Fishers should check with their tribal conservation officers and or natural resource department for tribal regulations that may apply to them, or with any other questions. For a full copy of CORA regulations, the Consent Decree, or the CORA charter, ask

your conservation or natural resources department or committee, or contact Jennifer Dale at 12140 W. Lakeshore Dr., Brimley MI, 49715; 906-248-5324, ext 1170; newspaper@bmic.net. (An 88-page copy of the Consent Decree with maps included is available on the CORA website, presently at www.cotfma.org.)

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority Commercial, Subsistence and Recreational Fishing Regulations for the 1836 Treaty ceded waters of Lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan

Part V: NON-COMMERCIAL FISHING
Section XVII.
RECREATIONAL FISHING

Tribal members may engage in recreational fishing in the 1836 Treaty waters subject to the bag limits, seasons, size limits, closed areas, and gear and method restrictions applicable to recreational fishers licensed by the State of Michigan. Tribal members engaged in recreational fishing must have a tribal membership identification card in their possession, but no further license is required.

Section XIX.
SUBSISTENCE FISHING.

(a) The following are permitted gear for tribal subsistence fishing activity: impoundment gear, hooks, spears, seines, dip nets, and a single large mesh or small

Attention: Members of 1836 treaty fishing tribes Are you recreation or subsistence?

Tribal subsistence fishing regulations have changed as a result of the year 2000 fishing negotiations. All tribal subsistence fishers using nets, spears, hooks and other gear must obtain a tribal subsistence fishing card and report all subsistence harvest.

In the past, only tribal members who used nets for subsistence purposes were required to obtain a subsistence fishing card and report their harvest to tribal authorities. **Now, if you wish to fish with more than two rods or tip-ups (state law), use gears not permitted by the State of Michigan, or harvest more fish than the state allows, you must obtain a subsistence fishing card and report that harvest each month.**

Only tribal identification is needed for those tribal members who fish recreationally following state regulation.

The new tribal subsistence regulations were negotiated with the State of Michigan and other parties last year during the controversial year 2000 fishing negotiations. For allocation purposes, the tribes asked the

state to improve their sportfishing harvest reporting system. Tribal fishery biologists agreed that there was a need to improve tribal subsistence harvest reporting and to better define the methods, seasons, gears, and harvest limits for the tribal subsistence fishery. They also acknowledged that it would take some time to inform everyone about the new regulations and for tribal members to become accustomed to reporting subsistence angling harvests.

Tribal biologists and CORA have developed new subsistence harvest reporting forms for subsistence fishing. The information reported by subsistence fishers will remain confidential. Harvest reports should be completed each month and turned into your tribal fishery program office.

Tribal subsistence fishing licenses and regulations can be obtained at the tribal conservation offices. If you have questions, you can contact your tribal fishery biologist or tribal conservation/law enforcement office.

mesh gill net as regulated in this section.

(b) Each gang of gill nets or impoundment nets used in subsistence fishing activity shall

be marked at each end with an orange float equivalent to at least one (1) gallon jug in size bearing the Tribal ID number of the subsistence fisher.

(c) Tribal fishers who engage in subsistence fishing shall obtain a subsistence fishing license issued by their tribe, and shall abide by all provisions of the regulations and applicable tribal regulations governing subsistence fishing. In addition, no tribal member shall engage in subsistence fishing with gill nets or impoundment nets without a tribal permit which shall be limited both in duration and in the area where the fishing may occur. The tribal member shall abide by the limitations contained in the permit.

(d) Subsistence fishers shall be limited to one hundred (100) pounds round weight aggregate catch of all species in possession.

(e) Subsistence fishers shall not sell or otherwise exchange for value any of the catch.

(f) Subsistence gill netting is limited to one (1) net of three

hundred (300) feet or less per vessel per day, except that in the St. Marys River, as described in Section VIII(a), a single gill net shall not exceed one hundred (100) feet in length. The tying together of single gill nets to form a gang of nets is prohibited.

(g) Subsistence fishing is authorized in all 1836 treaty waters, except:

(1) Subsistence fishing with gill nets is prohibited in all lake trout refuges, and retention of lake trout taken with any gear in lake trout refuges is prohibited.

(2) Subsistence fishing gear shall not be set in a manner which completely blocks or entirely prevents the free passage of fish into and out of streams that flow into 1836 treaty waters.

(3) There shall be no subsistence fishing with nets:

(i) Within one hundred (100) yards of any break wall or pier; or

(ii) Within a three-tenths (0.3) mile radius of the mouth of the streams

listed in Section VIII (h).

(iii) In any tribal zone where fishing with all types of nets has been closed.

(h) Subsistence fishing with large mesh gill nets and impoundment nets is prohibited during the period from 12:00 noon November 6 through 12:00 noon November 29.

(i) In Little Bay de Noc, Lake Michigan, subsistence fishers shall not use gill nets or possess walleye beginning 12:00 a.m. March 1 through 6:00 p.m. May 15 in the waters of grid 306 north of an east-west line drawn through Saunders Point.

(j) In Big Bay de Noc, Lake Michigan, subsistence fishers call not use gill nets or possess walleye beginning 12:00 a.m. March 1 through 6:00 p.m. May 15 in the waters of grids 308 and 309 north of a line drawn from St. Vitals Point to the northernmost tip of Garden Bluff.

(k) Lake sturgeon, muskellunge (in Lake Michigan), and any species of fish listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act shall not be targeted for harvest, and any catch of such fish shall be returned to the water alive or, if not alive, shall be turned into the BSD¹ or tribal biological staff and shall not be retained in possession.

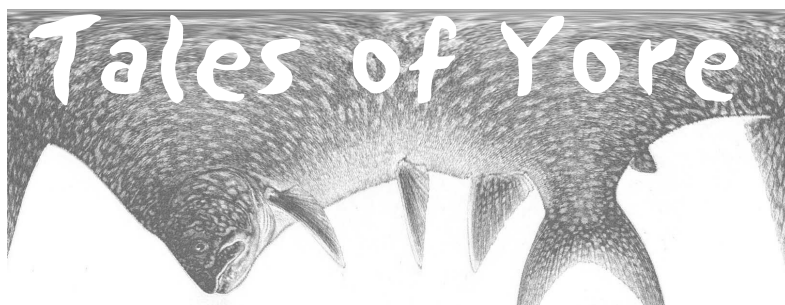
(l) All subsistence fishers who engage in any fishing activity under this section shall file catch reports with their tribe as provided in Section XXII(b).²

(m) No subsistence fisher shall set a gill net within fifty (50) feet of another gill net.

Ed. Notes:

¹ BSD is the Biological Services Division, formerly Inter Tribal Fisheries Assessment Program (ITFAP).

² Section XXII(b) is harvest reporting and sampling.



Phil Parish of Bay Mills lent us a newspaper clipping saved by his aunt, Ruth Rodiger, "Aunt Ooty," who has just passed away. Although there is no publishing name on the page, it is presumed the article comes from *The Evening News* in Sault Ste. Marie, perhaps from 1951.

Anyone who has an old story or news clipping, or both, please share it with the newsletter! Send to Jennifer Dale, Bay Mills Indian Community, 12140 W. Lakeshore Dr., Brimley, MI 49715; newspaper@bmic.net.

Fishermen lose jeep in plunge in Upper River

Two Bay Mills fishermen had a close call when their jeep went through the ice off Bay Mills Mission last week, it was reported today.

They are Jack Parrish, the jeep owner, and Lehman "Porky" Teeple.

They lost their jeep and all their fishing gear, it was reported, and Teeple had a close call; after going under twice, he was caught by Parrish and pulled above the surface, it was reported.



More recreational fishing information from the DNR

2001 Michigan fishing season begins April 1

LANSING—The 2001 Michigan fishing season officially begins Sun., April 1, according to a Michigan Department of Natural Resources news release. The 2001 Michigan Fishing Guide is available where fishing licenses are sold. The guide provides fishing regulations and other fishing-related information helpful to anglers fishing Michigan's freshwater Great Lakes and inland waters. Major regulation changes for the 2001-2002 season are detailed on page 10 of the new guide. The Inland Trout and Salmon Guide 2001, a separate publication, allows anglers to easily determine the trout and salmon fishing regulations for a given inland lake or stream, simply by looking at a map.

Both publications can be viewed in an online format at <http://www.dnr.state.mi.us>. The Michigan 2001 Fish Advisory last updated this March, can also be accessed from this site.

New fishing regulations take effect April 1

LANSING—The Department of Natural Resources reminds anglers that a few important changes to Michigan's

fishing regulations will take effect April 1.

- Walleye—Lake Erie: The daily possession limit is raised to six walleye.
- Lake trout—Great Lakes: Several changes have been made to the lake trout size limits and fishing zones as part of the agreement concerning treaty fishing rights in the Great Lakes. Please refer to pages 19-21 in the 2001 Michigan Fishing Guide for details. The guide will be available on-line April 1 at www.michigandnr.com or where fishing licenses are sold.
- Bass season—Lake Michigan: The open season for largemouth and smallmouth bass on Lake Michigan, within one-half mile of Beaver, Garden, High and Hog islands is July 1-31.
- Other reminders: A change to the number of fishing rods that anglers may use on the Great Lakes went into effect last September. Anglers trolling for trout and salmon on Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Superior and the St. Marys River may use three lines or three single rods and lines. No more than six hooks total may be attached on all lines. These changes do not apply to shore anglers. Anglers also are reminded to review

CORA MEETING DATE

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) and CORA's Great Lakes Resource Committee will both meet April 26 at the Grand Traverse Williamsburg annex next to the Turtle Creek Casino. Call the CORA office at 906-632-0043 for information.

the *Exception to General Regulations by County* section in the 2001 Michigan Fishing Guide before they go fishing. Many water bodies have special regulations that may be more

restrictive (or more liberal) than the general regulations for hook and line fishing, bow and spear fishing or netting.

Teach kids how to fish!! Summer job opportunity with the Michigan DNR

LANSING — Two positions teaching kids how to fish are available in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint, Kalamazoo, and Benton Harbor. Instructors work as a team. The program runs from mid-June until mid-August. The pay is approximately \$10 per hour for approximately 32 hours per week, plus reimbursement for some meals and mileage. Candidates must have a very basic knowledge of aquatic biology. Fishing techniques are helpful but not essential. A desire to assist youngsters is more important.

The program uses a fun program to introduce youngsters to the aquatic environment and the fun of

fishing to ignite in them an awareness and appreciation of the outdoor world around them.

Instructors will work with City Parks and Recreation Department Day Camp and Summer Playground Programs. Youngsters will be given instruction in aquatic biology and very basic angling techniques. Then, youngsters will be taken on fishing trips to nearby parks. Training, instructional materials, and fishing tackle are provided by the DNR.

Interested? Sound like fun? Contact Ken Dodge, Urban Fisheries Biologist, MDNR, 517-780-7902 (e-mail: dodgek@state.mi.us).

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

CORA Board, Officers and Committee officers

Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC or Bay Mills)
Jeff Parker, Tribal Chairman, CORA chairman
Tim Kinney, Conservation Committee Chairman

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB)
Robert Kewaygoshkum, Tribal Chairman
John Concannon, Natural Resource Committee Chairman

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRB)
Bob Guenthardt, Tribal Chairman, CORA vice chairman
Bob Koon, Natural Resource Commission Chairman

Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (LTBB)
Jerry Chingwa, Tribal Chairman, GLRC* chairman
George Anthony, Natural Resource Commission Chairman

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Sault Tribe or SSMTCI)
Bernard Bouschor, Tribal Chairman; Alternate: Fred Paquin, Tribal Unit 3 Director, Chief of Police
Vic Matson Sr., Conservation Committee Chairman, GLRC vice chairman

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

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Klamath tribes celebrate fish runs with ancient ceremony

CHILOQUIN, Ore. (AP) — Seven-year-old Nettoya Miller stared into a bucket holding three huge fish, "C'waam" suckers about to become the focus of an ancient Klamath ceremony that celebrates the annual fish runs.

Nearly 300 tribal members and guests gathered on the banks of the Sprague River to witness the ceremony, which is similar to those of coastal tribes that depend on salmon.

Each year, two of the suckers are returned to the water, one to the Sprague River and one to Upper Klamath Lake. One — the first sucker to return to Klamath lands near Chiloquin and Braymill — is killed and placed over a fire as tribal members pray for another healthy fish run.

"We have to pray to the Creator to ask him to have good numbers of fish come back," said Dino Herrera, director of culture and heritage for the Klamath Tribes. "We honor the fish and pray for them."

Suckers, once plentiful in the

Klamath Basin, have suffered since white settlers came to the area more than 100 years ago. Their numbers have decreased by more than 95 percent, and the fish were placed on the federally enforced endangered species list in 1988. The Klamath tribe has special permission to kill the ceremonial fish.

"It is up to us and our generation to do what we can for the fish," said Allen Foreman, chairman of the Klamath Tribes. "I would like to see a resolution from the tribe and the tribal council to make the suckers a national fish for the nation of the Klamath Tribes."

After guests listened to the history of the C'waam suckers, the fish were blessed by tribal elders representing the Modoc, Paiute and Klamath before they were released or killed.

"We're hoping on your behalf and your children's, and on behalf of the children to come, that we can secure our livelihood," said tribal member Elwood Miller.



Newly discovered parasite discovered in yellow perch

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fisheries biologists are warning yellow perch fishermen to be on the lookout for a parasite that renders the meat of the fish non-edible. The parasite has been confirmed in perch in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Jim Waybrant, fisheries biologist from the DNR Field Office in Newberry, told the *St. Ignace News* that the parasite has not been found anywhere in the Upper Peninsula. But given the transient nature of fishermen from neighboring states, discovery here will be a matter of time, he said.

"The parasite turns the meat of the perch to mush," Waybrant said. "The meat is not inedible and, if eaten, is not known to be harmful to humans, but it resembles badly freezer-burnt meat and is best discarded."

The parasite, a species of *Heterosporis*, attacks the muscles of the perch, starting behind the head and spreading throughout the entire fish. There are no outward signs that the fish is infected and, according to Waybrant, there is no evidence that the disease is fatal to the perch.

According to the Wisconsin DNR, an international parasite expert confirmed in February 2000 that yellow perch samples taken from the Eagle chain in Wisconsin were infected with the parasite, which had previously been reported only in eels in Japan and Taiwan and in aquarium fish in France and Germany. The Eagle chain and Leech Lake in Minnesota, where the parasite was discovered in the fall of 1999 in yellow perch caught by anglers, represented the first document-

ed cases of the parasite in freshwater fish in North America. The parasite has since been discovered in walleye in Leech Lake and Vermillion Lake in Minnesota. According to the Wisconsin DNR, walleye are only somewhat susceptible.

Anglers can help prevent spreading the parasite to other waters by taking the following precautions

1. When filleting a yellow perch, check the fillet for white, opaque flesh. If very little flesh appears affected, anglers can remove that part and use the rest of the fillet. If more of the flesh is infected, anglers should dispose of the fish by throwing it in the garbage or burying it.

2. Thoroughly dry all equipment and boat exteriors before using in other water bodies because the parasite

spores may be present in the lake water.

3. All boaters can help prevent the spread by emptying their bilge water before leaving the lake. Any equipment which can not be dried thoroughly, especially live wells, should be washed with a solution of one cup bleach to five gallons of water before entering another waterbody.

The parasite's life cycle is only partially known. As infected fish die and decompose, spores are released into the water and are swallowed by other fish. Muscles just behind the head seem to be infected first. The infection then spreads until the entire fillet is affected. Spores are very hardy and can remain infective for at least a year in water, but they cannot survive under dry conditions.

St. Marys River Assessment undertaken by international task group; tribes, state, U.S. and Canadian biologists participating

By Mike Modrzynski
St. Ignace News

Fisheries biologists from both shores of the St. Marys River have launched one of the most unique fisheries projects in North America, developing a shared resource approach for the future well being of the river.

Ken Gebhardt, chairman of the St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group and Bay Mills Indian Community fisheries biologist, said the group consists of resource biologists from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Canadian tribal biologists representing Garden River First Nation and the Batchawana First Nation, the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey/Biological Resources Division.

"What we are developing is not a management plan, but, rather, an assessment plan that can be used to provide a common approach to caring for the river," Gebhardt said. "We are evaluating the impact of things like habitat loss on the fishery and the rest of the river's environments, checking where we are and where we are heading. It's a unique pro-active approach to assessing the overall conditions of the river."

Gebhardt said the group has identified five major biological concerns along with two others dealing with diverse user groups and a mix of regulations regarding the river's fish populations. He said the biological concerns arose from early meetings of the group, identifying the most pressing concerns from the standpoint of fisheries biologists. The other two concerns were identified following meetings with the stakeholders, primarily fishermen using the resources of the St. Marys River.

The five biological concerns include fish populations, water quality and quantity, exotic species, maintaining

healthy and sustainable species, and controlling the level of contaminants in food fish found in the river. Gebhardt said the other concerns deal with differentiating the needs of the river's three main user groups, subsistence, commercial, and sport fishers, and with the need to sort out the rationale behind establishing the diverse set of rules and regulations regarding the use of the resources.

"Our task is not to find solutions or fixes for issues, but to establish an accurate assessment of the river," Gebhardt said. "Our assessment report due out later this year is a combined effort for the good of the river's resources. One thing we've determined already is that none of us spend enough time on the river."

Gebhardt said the group intends its efforts to provide the momentum needed to maintain continuous monitoring of the river, not just a snapshot look at the ecosystem every few years. He said if problems or concerns are found they need constant monitoring to determine cause and treatment because few things that influence the ecosystem, especially those that are man-made, will solve themselves.

A major concern discussed by the stakeholders is allocation and regulation of available fisheries resources. Gebhardt said the group is currently working on walleye stocking protocol that addresses the need for a cooperative effort versus a piecemeal approach to planting fish in the St. Marys River. He said the tribes and the DNR want to plant walleye for the fishers they each represent and the involvement of all parties in developing the stocking plan will ensure the best course of action is followed.

"The makeup of this group reflects the inter-jurisdictional nature of the St. Marys River," Gebhardt said. "The team of biologists doesn't include a single manager or administrator, allowing us to approach our assessment of the river by concentrating on the

resource, rather than programs that influence or impact the resource. We look at habitat, fisheries, and quality of the river from a cumulative perspective, not just focusing on a single issue."

He said that the group conducted a year-long harvest survey that began in the summer of 1999 and ended with the 2000 ice fishing season. The survey contacted all of the user groups, subsistence, commercial, and sport fishers using the river to provide documentation of the impact of these groups have on the resource. Gebhardt also indicated the report will show which of the three groups has the greatest impact on the fishery stocks in the river.

The St. Marys River fish stocks should provide sustainable harvest opportunities for all uses of the resource, according to Gebhardt, including recreational, subsistence, and commercial fishers. The group's focus, he added, looks at the concerns of the user groups, but also considers the

impact of allowing increases in fishing effort and the ability of supporting habitat necessary to maintain the fishery. He said the St. Marys River is a shared resource and, under the eyes of the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission and his task group, should be managed with shared responsibility.

Gebhardt said the task group will also rely on research resources such as Lake Superior State University's Aquatic Research Laboratory. He said the college has a tremendous collection of information on Atlantic salmon, steelhead, and Chinook salmon, as well as long term documentation of sea lamprey wounding rates on salmon and trout in the Upper Great Lakes. As a resource member to the task group, the college is a major contributor to the overall assessment project.

The St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group was established by the Lake Huron Technical Committee of the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission.

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Canadian negotiator expects fewer tribal chiefs to sign fishing pacts

YARMOUTH, Nova Scotia (AP) — Ottawa's chief negotiator with East Coast tribal fishermen says it's unlikely the government will sign as many fisheries deals with Micmac bands as it did last year.

Last year, 30 of 34 tribal bands in Atlantic Canada signed fishing agreements that provided about \$200 million in licenses, fishing equipment and training to the tribes.

But Ottawa's lead negotiator says that this year tribes are more reluctant.

"I don't think we'll get as many as we got last year," Jim McKenzie said Saturday during a panel discussion with fishermen.

In 1999, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in the Marshall case that

tribes have a treaty right to a moderate livelihood from fishing.

Ever since that decision, Ottawa has been trying to hammer out agreements that assist the Micmac in entering the fishery.

Federal Fisheries Minister Herb Dhaliwal issued a statement recently saying talks were proceeding.

"It is important to understand that signed agreements are not necessary to have a peaceful, orderly fishery this summer," he said.

Every fall since the Marshall decision has seen dangerous confrontations on Miramichi Bay and St. Mary's Bay in Nova Scotia between tribal fishermen, federal fisheries officers and, occasionally, non-tribal fishermen.

FIN CLIPPING PROVIDES SEASONAL INCOME

By Sharlene Myers

BRIMLEY — Restoration of native lake trout to the Great Lakes is the goal of the Pendills Creek NFH (National Fish Hatchery). A side result of their efforts has been to provide a small boost to the local economy.

Every March, the hatchery, part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, hires local people to clip fins. This year six people returned to their annual task. The newest worker has been there for three years, but some have been clipping fins since the early '80s.

Faber Bland, hatchery manager for the past 11 years, said they want responsible people they can count on to do the job within the time frame. "It's extra money for them every year and they can look forward to earning that the next year, too."

Although the job only lasts about two months, the workers make a good wage. Plans for the extra dollars made this year include purchasing new furniture and a good used vehicle, taking an exotic trip, and paying off the extra bills incurred during a long winter.

Bland, a 30-year veteran in the fisheries business, shows the workers how the clipping is to be done. Each year it changes, so that the year a fish was distributed into the lakes (their year class) can be identified. He credits the workers for doing a tough job.

"Their hands are in cold water all day and it is tedious work. They have to pay close attention as the clips have to be done correctly. If they clip it wrong, it will regenerate."

The clipping is only part of the big picture of restoring the native trout lake population to the Great Lakes. Pendills Creek NFH was established for that purpose in the early '50s, said Bland, and two other hatcheries were built later — one on the Jordan River near Gaylord, Mich.,

and one at Iron River, Wisc. All three are national fish hatcheries dedicated to lake trout restoration in the Great Lakes. The species was almost depleted by sea lamprey depredation and commercial overfishing in the '30s, said Bland, with only a remnant stock left in Lake Superior.

"Our goal is to restore native lake trout," said Bland. "That's all we do. We have nothing to do with other fish species or regulation."

Bland also oversees Hiawatha Forest NFH, located on Sullivans Creek near Racine, Mich. The facility manages the brood stock, which produces eggs for all three hatcheries. They use spawn from the same parents, introducing wild strains every 10 years or so for genetic diversity, explained Bland. Wild trout eggs are collected and reared at isolation facilities for two years until they pass certain disease checks. They then replace the old brood stock.

About 300,000 eggs are incubated at Pendills, but the majority of the eggs go to the Jordan River hatchery due to their larger inside rearing space. When the eggs hatch, the "sac fry" still have the yolk sac attached; they don't have to be fed until that is absorbed and then they are introduced to starter feed. The fry are kept in the inside rearing tanks until June, when the older fish have been distributed, and then placed in the outdoor raceways. They join the 500,000 to 700,000 fingerlings (fish under 1 year old) that Jordan River ships to Pendills, and spend a year in the raceways.

There is little growth in the fish in the extremely cold water between December and February. The fish don't move much, nor eat much then, said Bland. In March, the water warms up and feeding activity escalates.

"We increase the feed then

to get some fat on them as they are getting ready to go," Bland said. The fish are fed a commercial fish food, prepared to a specific diet formulated by hatchery staff consisting of fish meal, soy bean meal, vitamins and minerals, all compressed into a pellet.

Now, the fin clippers go to work. This year, they will clip about 750,000 fish at Pendills. Besides clipping, the other two hatcheries also insert a coded wire tag into the snout of the fish for tracking purposes.

After clipping, the fish go back into the raceway, which is divided by a screen to separate the unclipped from the clipped. By May, they are ready for distribution, a project that all three hatcheries work on as a team.

The fish are crowded down the raceway, sucked into the truck by a fish pump, and transported to the stocking vessel — the 82-foot M/V Togue. Most of the fish from Pendills go into the northern parts of lakes Huron and Michigan, said Bland.

There are also specific stocking sites in those lakes — refuges of around 200,000 stocked lake trout closed to fishermen. These areas have been researched to be ideal spawning grounds. A lot of assessment work is done here, Bland said, to learn if adult fish are returning to spawn.

To do assessments, hatchery staff net the fish from boats and gather information from the clip marks or the coded wire tags. They can determine the age of the fish, their year class and their condition, and note any signs of lamprey attacks. By the coded wire tags, they can track fish movement. They also record the number of wild fish found.

Every year, approximately 3.5 million lake trout are stocked from all three hatcheries in lakes Michigan and Huron. They once stocked Superior, but stopped four years ago when they discovered there was enough natural reproduction taking place. Their goal is to stock fish until they restore natural reproduction and the population becomes self sustaining, Bland explained.

"The program has been very successful in Lake Superior. In Michigan and Huron we see some signs of getting there, but not enough to think about stopping the stocking," said Bland.



Suzette Lee and Bay Mills member and fisherman Corky Parish clip the fins of 1-year-old lake trout. Lee, a night auditor at the Bay Mills Resort says the seasonal income is a help.



Diane Parish clips fins. When all is said and done, she and her co-workers will clip 750,000 fish so the fish may be easily identified by year class.



The fish are temporarily numbered so they aren't hurt by struggling. By the time they go back down the shoot they have already recovered.



The fish are returned to the water as soon as each is clipped. They swim through the shoot and back to their raceways outdoors.

"Tribal Fishing" is published by the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) Public Information 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, 906-248-3241, ext. 1170, newspaper@bmic.net. CORA Executive Director Faith McGruther may be reached at 906-632-0043 or cotfma@up.net. See www.cotfma.org for more information.

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Photos by Jennifer Dale