



TRIBAL BIOLOGIST, TOM GORENFLO, HONORED BY GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

ANN ARBOR, Mich.— The Great Lakes Fishery Commission recently presented Tom Gorenflo of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority with the Jack Christie/Ken Loftus Award for Outstanding Contributions to Healthy Ecosystems. The award, which is presented annually by the commission, recognized Gorenflo's work to help achieve an historic fishery agreement between the Chippewa-Ottawa tribes signatory to the 1836 treaty, the State of Michigan, and the United States federal government.

"In presenting this award, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission recognized the extraordinary commitment to partnerships, science, and above all, the fishery resources of the Great Lakes," said Dr. Chris Goddard, the commission's executive secretary.

Gorenflo, who represented tribal interests throughout the negotiations, was honored for his strong commitment to the fisheries resources, his application of scientific principles, and his ability to help all sides forge an equitable agreement. Gorenflo shared this award with other negotiators.

In August 2000, five tribal governments, the State of Michigan, the U.S. Federal



Photo Courtesy GLFC

Gorenflo (middle), director of the Intertribal Fisheries Assessment Program for the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, was co-recognized for this award along with Dr. Kelley Smith (left) of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Mark Holey (right) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their contributions to the agreement.

Government, and four stakeholder groups endorsed the fishery agreement after two years of difficult negotiations. At issue were allocation of the fishery among the users, rehabilitation of native species such as lake trout, and the application of joint management programs. The final agreement redistributed the fishing opportunities among the parties; included an enhanced commitment to native species restoration through

stocking, harvest controls, and sea lamprey control; and fostered the conversion of gill nets to trap nets.

Gorenflo, director of the Intertribal Fisheries Assessment Program for the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, was co-recognized for this award along with Dr. Kelley Smith of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Mark Holey of the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service for their contributions to the agreement.

"The agreement between Michigan and the tribes is truly remarkable," said Goddard. "When this process began, the parties to the negotiation were entrenched in their respective positions. It was unclear whether they would come together with a successful agreement or whether the process would fly apart and land in the courts. Thanks to the commitment of the parties to reach an agreement, and the efforts from individuals like Tom Gorenflo and his fellow negotiators, the agreement is equitable to the people who rely on the fishery for food and income and is good for the Great Lakes resource. Particularly important is the fact that the parties based their agreement on scientific principles."

The Jack Christie/Ken Loftus Award for Distinguished Contributions to Healthy Great Lakes Ecosystems is presented by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to recognize an individual or group who made significant contributions to protecting or improving Great Lakes ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems are the foundation for strong fish and wildlife communities. Jack

Christie and Ken Loftus, two former employees of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, remain widely known for their steadfast adherence to science in resource management. Their lasting legacies continue to be the high standards they set for research, their emphasis on science as the basis for management, and their commitment to the "ecosystem approach." The Jack Christie/Ken Loftus award recognizes those who have adhered to the highest principles of science for the short-term and long-term benefit of Great Lakes ecosystems.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is an international organization established by the governments of the United States and Canada through the 1955 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries. The Commission has the responsibility to coordinate fisheries research, control sea lampreys, and facilitate implementation of the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries. For more information about the Commission and its programs, visit www.glfc.org on the Internet or call Marc Gaden at 734-662-3209, Ex.14.

MORE ABOUT NON COMMERCIAL FISHING

CORA tribes recreational or subsistence fisher: Which are you? What do you need to fish?

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 gears 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, a tribal member must know the difference between recreational and subsistence fishing. A member is subsistence fishing if:

- Fishing with more than two rods or tip-ups (state law),
- Using gears not permitted by the State of Michigan, or
- Harvesting more fish than state law allows.

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 1836 fishing tribes asked the state to improve their sportfishing harvest reporting system. In turn, the tribes were obligated to improve

their subsistence harvest regulations and reporting system.

New subsistence harvest reporting forms for subsistence fishing have been developed. The information reported by subsistence fishers will remain confidential. Harvest reports should be completed each month and turned in to a tribal members' natural resource department.

Recreational fishers of the CORA tribes — Bay Mills, Sault Tribe, Little River and Little Traverse — may fish in the 1836 treaty ceded area, but each tribe handles its non commercial fishing a little differently:

BAY MILLS — Only a tribal identification card is required for those tribal members who fish recreationally following state regulations. Bay Mills only requires a tribal ID to fish recreationally. Bay Mills members interested in subsistence fishing can obtain a tribal subsistence fishing license and regulations at the Bay Mills Conservation Office.

GRAND TRAVERSE BAND — The Grand Traverse Band issues its own card for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering in the Great Lakes as well as the inland 1836 treaty-ceded territory.

GTB members can obtain the free-of-charge card with their tribal ID. They may also need to obtain tags — turkey or deer tags, for example. If hunting, members need to bring a hunter's safety certificate or previous hunting license along with their tribal enrollment card. Members are furnished with all the regulations when they obtain their card.

LITTLE RIVER BAND — LRB issues its own resource license, which includes inland and Great Lakes fishing. Tribal members 12 and over who want to hunt and fish can use their tribal enrollment card to obtain a license at no cost. Fishers will be furnished with the tribe's fishing booklet.

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BAND — LTBB members who only wish to fish on the Great Lakes in the treaty-ceded territory need only their tribal IDs. Otherwise, LTBB issues a tribal inland hunting and fishing card. Tribal members using cards will be furnished with two sets of rules and regulations — one for on-reservation use and one for off-reservation. Tribal members of LRB and GTB may also apply for a card for use on the LTBB

reservation.

SAULT TRIBE — Only an up-to-date tribal ID is needed to fish in the Great Lakes or St. Marys River while following state regulations. A permit is needed for inland fishing, and no spearing or snagging is allowed under the permit. Sault Tribe's cut off for an inland permit this season was May 1. Anyone who is interested next year should contact Sault Tribe Conservation next February or March for an application.

An agreement between LRB, LTBB and GTB allows tribal members from each tribe to apply to use the resource on another tribe's reservation. Tribal members should check with their natural resource departments.

NEED HELP?

Are you interested in having a kid remember you forever? Teach them to fish!

Project FISH (Friends Involved in Sportfishing Heritage) is a mentor-based, community-supported, Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education program. A 12-15 hour workshop will be held in the eastern Upper Peninsula in mid to late September. Let's work together to

Members of the CORA tribes who need a fishing card or have questions about recreational and subsistence fishing can contact their tribal departments:

BMIC: Ken Gebhardt at 248-3241 or Terry Carrick at 248-3244.

LRB Natural Resources: 231-723-1594

LTBB Natural Resources and Conservation Dept.'s: 231-439-3856

GTB Conservation or Biological Services: 231-271-3474

Sault Tribe Conservation: 906-635-0691

give our kids some positive outdoor memories.

If you are interested in passing some fishing knowledge to future stewards of our water, contact Mark Stephens at 517-432-2700, steph143@msu.edu, or visit our web site at www.projectfish.org

CORA MEETINGS BRIEFS

GLRC July 19

CORA's Great Lakes Resource Committee met July 19 at Little River Band in Manistee. Tim Kinney, BMIC, and Bernard Bouschor, Sault Tribe, were both absent. Fred Paquin sat in for Bouschor.

REPORTS—

CONSERVATION COMMITTEES
Chairmen of CORA tribes natural resource entities reported their matters were internal. George Anthony, LTBB, also reported completing a lamprey control program, reviewing law enforcement procedures and continuing work with natural resources damage assessment in Green Bay.

BIOLOGISTS

Tom Gorenflo, ITFAP director, discussed a negative article in *The Detroit News* based on a study out of the University of Illinois. *The News* reported that eating certain fish causes memory loss when the abstract of the study didn't seem to draw such a strong conclusion. Environmental Coordinator Mike Ripley responded with a letter to the *Detroit News* and *The Evening News*, a Sault, Mich., newspaper that ran the story.

Anthony asked if the state couldn't issue some kind of statement rebutting that article. Gorenflo said he hopes to obtain that kind of support. He has requested a copy of the full study and will later make a more formal response.

Archie Martell, LRB biologist, reported conducting assessments, work on perch

north of Manistee, Lake Michigan Technical Committee attendance, and whitefish spring assessments.

Ken Gebhardt, BMCC biologist, reported a May and June lake trout assessment in Whitefish Bay for five weeks at six sites, a whitefish assessment near Rockport and Alpena, and harvest monitoring for gill net and trap net in Lake Superior and Lake Huron. He is currently conducting an annual walleye assessment.

Tina Frankenberger, GTB biologist, reported spring walleye planning, stocking Northport Bay, completing a stocking plan for walleye, which all but the state have approved. Commercial sampling is in progress, she added.

(This is the first time Frankenberger has reported to GLRC. She is a GTB member who graduated with a B.S. from Michigan State University. She has been working for GTB Natural Resources since May 1999.)

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTS

Fred Paquin, Sault Tribe, reported on the Joint Law Enforcement meeting (Law Enforcement Committee Chairman Officer Al Colby, LTBB, arrived late and added a few comments at the following CORA meeting).

Paquin reported there have been complaints on the net marking in trap net zones. The nets are marked properly, so he doesn't understand why sport fishers are tangling in them.

Half the sport fishers see set nets and are trying to catch fish, so that the tribes are blamed for what sport fishers are doing.

For the other half, putting up staffs should take care of the rest.

He reported that a joint patrol had to pull a net. He said that it wouldn't be a bad thing to tag nets for identification purposes. This may be a proposal that could come back to the board. Another reason to tag is to make fishers responsible if nets need to be pulled. The one they had to pull couldn't be identified.

Anthony asked who pulls in what area if there is no identification. Paquin said they are discussing it, and looking for someone to pull nets for enforcement (who have small boats).

McGruther said that the USCG is taking out a TV station's camera crew to look at nets. She suggested making the shoot a joint effort, and suggested Gorenflo or Gebhardt go along. Attorney Candy Tierney suggested law enforcement would be a better choice.

Paquin added that CORA has a good relationship with the USCG in the Sault and St. Ignace, and could develop one in the Alpena area.

A LRB representative said that joint patrols are going well.

Frankenberger said that in GTB's area, sport fishers are too close to trap nets when they are being lifted. They are working with the USCG on a marker that will take care of liability. The old convention was to hang out an old bushel basket. Sport fishers won't acknowledge the working fishing boats.

Paquin asked if any tribal fishers complained. Frankenberger didn't know. Paquin advised her to have complaints directed to the Law Enforcement Committee.

Attorney Bill Rastetter said an educational campaign is needed.

CORA Public Information Officer Jennifer Dale said a release with trap net graphic and map was sent out in the Lake Huron area and the same could be done for Lake Michigan. She had sent out a release with text, map and trap net graphic.

DEVELOPMENT

Resource Developer Dwight "Bucko" Teeple said that the Sault Tribe Conservation committee had asked about McKay Bay and Pendills. He is working on getting a Pendills access site into the forestry plan. He received permits for McKay Bay development from the DEQ and the Corps of Engineers. Bids came at \$188,782 from MCM Marina, and \$235,644 from Steel and Sons, but only 153,000 was approved for the project. Vic Matson Sr., Sault Tribe, suggested scaling back the project. Teeple said that most of the cost was in the steel piling, and having to redo the permits would take another year. No action was taken.

He also reported that the Protect the Earth Youth Camp is proceeding and is scheduled for Aug. 6-1; he referred DNR complaints about access at Rockport and Hammond Bay to the appropriate tribal entities, and he is working to resubmit an ANA grant after obtaining technical assistance.

OTHER MATTERS

Gorenflo asked about procedures for a fisher getting a permit in another tribe's zone. Everyone agreed it was a tribal concern, between the tribes involved. So, a fisher would go to his tribe and ask it to make the request to the other tribe, and inform CORA.

Gorenflo said his office was getting complaints on unattended or abandoned trap nets, but he can see from Paquin's report that it is already being worked on. He suggested a definition of an abandoned

net should be developed. Paquin said the biologists should be invited to the next meeting.

Matson said nets sometime seem unattended but are not. He said an abandoned net is a net in which the buoys are cut and there is no tag.

Rastetter requested a reminder notice go out to the fishers on net markings. Jeff Parker, BMIC, said law enforcement should do it. Paquin said they could.

CORA July 19

CORA met following the July 19 GLRC meeting with the same board members present.

Law Enforcement Committee Chairman Al Colby, Little Traverse Bay Band, arrived to supplement the report made by Fred Paquin at the preceding GLRC meeting, also reporting that the Advisory Board was yet to be completed, and that the committee recommends standardization in tribal courts.

In reports, Public Information Officer Jennifer Dale asked the board to choose a new logo from a field of excellent entries. The board chose a logo featuring an eagle striking a fish. The artist, James Witkop, submitted the original in pencil. He wins \$400. All the submissions will be available for viewing at www.cotfma.org. Now that the CORA logo has been selected, the new website and letterhead can be designed.

Next, Dale asked for approval of 2001 salmon net safety campaign materials. Paquin asked that the poster be modified and other board members agreed. CORA Chairman Jeff Parker directed Dale to finalize the poster and fax it to all the board members for a 48-hour reply, then implement the campaign.

Dale reported a campaign to educate boaters and sport fishers about new tribal trap nets in Lake Huron, in conjunction with BMIC Biologist Ken Gebhardt. Materials were sent to local newspapers and radios, state fish licensing agents for display, and the USCG for broadcast on the recreational boaters channel. She will also conduct a campaign for Lake Michigan, as requested at the GLRC meeting.

CORA Executive Director Faith McGruther reported that Attorney Candy Tierney reviewed CORA personnel policies and procedures researched and drafted by CORA staff.

LRB Chairman Bob Guenthardt brought up questions on tribes' Gathering Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Forest Service. He asked whether CORA or the tribes should obtain and issue Convention on International Treaties on Endangered Species (CITES) tags for species such as bobcat, otter or badger. LRB made their own last year. Guenthardt suggested that CORA obtain and distribute the tags as the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife (GLIFWC) does.

Tierney said that CORA is not really into this aspect of natural resources yet. Two committees were established for CORA: Great Lakes Resources Committee (GLRC) and Inland Lands and Waters Resources Committee (ILWRC). The Inland committee has yet to be implemented. She suggested going through each tribe until the committee is up and running.

Guenthardt said CORA could get the tags, and each tribe come up with its own formula for distribution.

A member of the LRB staff asked if CORA would consider signing an Gathering MOU agreement with the Forest Service. He was referred to McGruther for further discussion.

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.

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

Albert "Big Abe" LeBlanc Building
179 W. Three Mile Rd.
Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783
Ph: 906-632-0043
Fax: 906-632-1141

CORA staff

Faith McGruther, executive director
Jane Teneyck, assistant executive director
Dwight "Bucko" Teeple, resource developer
Bev Aikens, executive secretary
Deanna Bowen, secretary

CORA logo contest decided; Witkop wins

The CORA logo contest has been decided! The winner is James Witkop. His pencil rendering of an eagle making a fish strike in the forefront and an eagle soaring in the background was chosen as best representing the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority. Witkop wins a prize in the amount of \$400.

The new logo will be used in CORA publications and on its letterhead.

Witkop made several entries to the contest. His outdoor themes represent freedom and survival, he said. What's special about the two eagles in his winning entry is that he knows them. This logo depicts two eagles that live in his neighborhood.

Witkop, 38, is a self-taught artist who has been drawing since the age of 16. He enjoys creating Native art, and also airbrushing and painting. Two of his specialties are clocks decorated with a Native themes, and dream-

catchers. Witkop creates the occasional graphic for *Frontier*, the Little River Band newsletter, pro bono for his tribe.

All the logo entries were wonderful, and it was a very difficult choice, made by the CORA board on July 19, 2001, in Manistee at its quarterly meeting.

Entries were made by Dan Brown, CE, David Teeple, Sara Teeple, Keith Hanson, Tammy Bowerman, and Lyle James. The entries are shown below in gray; see www.cotfma.org to see them in color.

Thanks to all who entered. The entries will be posted on the website, www.cotfma.org, as CORA prepares its new website with design based on the new logo, www.1836CORA.org. Anyone who is interested in these artists would contact the CORA Public Information Office, which will let the artists know of your interest.



"CE"



Dan Brown



Dan Brown



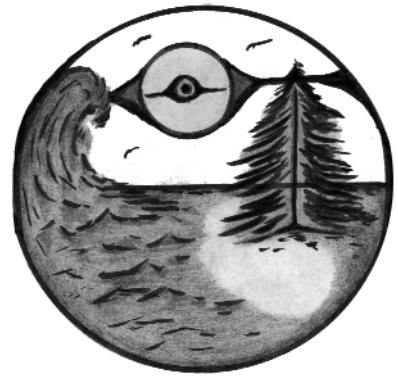
David Teeple



James Witkop



James Witkop



Keith Hanson



Keith Hanson



Tammy Bowerman



James Witkop



Lyle James



Keith Hanson



Keith Hanson



Sara Teeple



Keith Hanson



CORA net marking press releases for Lakes Huron, Lake Michigan and salmon season

In July and August, CORA Public Information & Education sent out three press releases on net marking. The first was "Vessels be aware of permitted tribal trap nets in Lake Huron." A graphic of trap net with markings, and a map of fishing in the area were included. A similar release was sent out for Lake

Vessels be aware of permitted tribal trap nets near Rogers City, Presque Isle and Rockport

July 5, 2001—Boaters should use caution navigating in northern Lake Huron between Hammond Bay and North Point. As a result of the year 2000 Consent Decree negotiated by the CORA tribes, State of Michigan, U.S. Department of the Interior, and various sport fishing groups, a new tribal trap net zone was established in northern Lake Huron.

Four tribal trap net operations, two each from Bay Mills Indian Community and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, are permitted to fish in the new Southern Lake Huron Trap Net Zone. Each operation is limited to no more than 12 nets, harvests only whitefish, conforms to seasonal spawning closures, and follows established net marking regulations. Additional requirements have been established by each CORA tribe to further regulate and monitor its own fishers as necessary.

Recreational boaters should be aware of tribal trap nets in and near areas of high sport fishing pressure and boating traffic. Tribal trap net fishers have placed commercial nets near Forty-Mile Point at Rogers City, Presque Isle, Rockport, Middle Island, and in an area called the "Horseshoe" which is southeast of Middle Island. All vessel operators

Vessels be aware of permitted tribal trap nets in Lake Michigan

Aug. 6 — Boaters should use caution navigating in northern Lake Michigan. As a result of the year 2000 Consent Decree negotiated by the CORA tribes, State of Michigan, U.S. Department of the Interior, and various sport fishing groups, trap net operations were established in new areas of Lake Michigan (see Lake Michigan map).

Vessel operators should navigate away from all markers and are encouraged to remain 1,500 feet away from any staff buoy or jug used to mark nets. Recreational boaters should be aware of tribal trap nets in and near areas of high sport fishing pressure and boating traffic. All vessel operators should be prepared to navigate around marked nets.

All trap nets are required to be marked by the permitted fishers. Each trap net must be marked with a 4 ft. staff buoy with a red or orange flag bearing the license number of the fisher. In addition, the king anchor and lead end of the net must be marked with a red or orange float that is at least 1 gallon in size. Although trap net marking requirements specified in the Consent Decree are not legally required to commence until 2002, most tribal fishers have already instituted them.

Unmarked or improperly marked nets should be reported to state and tribal law enforcement officials or to the DNR RAP hotline at 1-800-292-7800. It is a federal offense to remove or tamper with legally set tribal commercial fishing gear in the Great Lakes. Removal of net marking staff buoys and jugs results in the commercial fishermen not being able to locate the net and

Notice to Boaters: Possible salmon nets on northern Lakes Huron and Michigan

July 30—From the beginning of August through the end of October, boaters in northern Lake Michigan and Lake Huron should be aware of the possible presence of tribal commercial salmon fishing nets. During their recreational boating and fishing activities, boaters should exercise extreme caution during low-light or bad weather conditions when navigating this area. Posters depicting what the nets look like and contact numbers for help have been posted.

Each net has large orange floats that are 6 inches by 14 inches spaced at intervals of 300 feet or less. The license number of the tribal fisher is on the net. Net ends are marked with staffs 5-foot in

Michigan. Both releases strongly recommend that boaters stay 1,500 ft. away from nets, or any buoys or jugs marking the nets.

The annual salmon net safety campaign was also conducted.

For fishers information here are the releases:

should be prepared to navigate around marked nets.

All trap nets are required to be marked by the permitted fishers. Each trap net must be marked with a 4-foot staff buoy with a red or orange flag bearing the license number of the fisher. In addition, the king anchor and lead end of the net must be marked with a red or orange float that is at least 1 gallon in size. Although trap net marking requirements specified in the Consent Decree are not legally required to commence until 2002, most fishers in Southern Lake Huron Trap Net Zone have already instituted them.

Vessel operators should navigate away from all markers and are encouraged to remain 1,500 feet away from any staff buoy or jug used to mark nets. Unmarked or improperly marked nets should be reported to state and tribal law enforcement officials or to the Department of Natural Resources RAP hotline at 1-800-292-7800.

It is a federal offense to remove or tamper with legally set tribal commercial fishing gear in the Great Lakes. Removal of net marking staff buoys and jugs results in the commercial fishermen not being able to locate the net and increases vessel navigation concerns for other boaters.

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New zones are:

Little Traverse Tribal Zone: Areas around Beaver Island (due west from Cross Village); and roughly from Stuttsmanville Road Tower to north of Charlevoix about 12 miles west of shore at either boundary, except for the inner harbor (see map of Little Traverse Tribal Zone detail).

Grand Traverse Tribal Zone: From Charlevoix southwest to North Manitou and South Manitou Islands, southward along the coast to Arcadia. Trap nets are allowed year round except just north of Traverse City along either side of the peninsula (see Lake Michigan map).

Two areas allow limited trap net fishing: the Lake Michigan Northern Development Zone from west of the Grand Traverse Tribal Zone allows for an aggregate effort of 12 nets targeting whitefish. The Lake Michigan Southern Development Zone from just north of Pentwater to Grand Haven in waters to the middle of Lake Michigan allows for one tribal trap net operation not to exceed 12 nets. Commercial fishing for chub is allowed in these zones: one small mesh gill net operation in the southern zone and by permit only in the northern zone.

Each trap net operation harvests only whitefish, conforms to seasonal spawning closures, and follows established net marking regulations. Additional requirements have been established by each CORA tribe to further regulate and monitor its own fishers as necessary.

CORA strongly recommends that boaters navigate around the nets they encounter rather between the staff buoys set at net ends—these salmon nets may be set at the surface and are composed of thick twine.

Fishers from the Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the Little Traverse Bay Band are all required to uniformly mark their nets in the above manner.

For more information contact CORA Executive Director Faith McGruther at 906-632-0043, or see www.cotfma.org.

Report on dubious study inflammatory

Ed. Note: CORA Environmental Coordinator Mike Ripley wrote the following letter to *The Evening News* on June 13. The letter was a response to an article in *The Evening News* that was picked up from *The Detroit News*, written by Jeremy Pearce. Pearce reported that a study of sport fishers found that consuming Lake Michigan fish caused memory loss. The conclusion was much too strong, Ripley found. He makes his point below.

Fishers should also note that subjects of the study were all over 50; in their early lives they

may have been consuming fish with many, many times the contaminate levels than are found in today's fish, which makes the study useless in some researcher's eyes.

Other subjective reports of the mental acuity of lifelong fish eaters may also contradict the findings of these sorts of studies based on subjective psychological tests.

At the July 19 CORA meeting, ITFAP Director Tom Gorenflo reported that his office has requested a copy of the study for review and a more formal response.

By Michael P. Ripley, Environmental Coordinator Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program

I am writing this letter in response to the July 12 article titled "Study: Fish consumption may pose danger". It is my opinion that the article contains seriously misleading information that needs to be corrected.

The agency that I work for, the Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program (ITFAP), represents the Great Lakes fishery interests of five Native American tribes in northern Michigan and the U.P. For the past 10 years we have been testing the commercial lake trout and whitefish catches of tribal fishers in the northern Great Lakes for the same contaminants mentioned in the article. The fish that we test, which are representative of the fish sold to wholesalers, are consistently well below the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's trigger levels for contaminants.

The problem with the article, which originally appeared in *The Detroit News*, is that the author has taken the conclusions of a single, questionable study and further distorted the results. In turn, other media such as radio have been reporting sound bites based on the *Detroit News* article that state "Great Lakes fish cause memory loss." This is absolutely and emphatically false!

The abstract of the study, published in the publication *Environmental Health Perspectives*, states, "In conclusion, PCB exposure during adulthood was associated (*my underline*) with impairments in memory and learning, whereas executive and visual-spatial function were unaffected." From this weak association, the press and the researchers themselves have jumped to the erroneous conclusion that consuming Great Lakes fish cause memory loss.

The end of the article contains a revealing quote by the psychologist who conducted the tests about how "subtle" and "hard to track" the effects of PCBs have been. Millions of dollars have been spent attempting to find any association with Great Lakes fish, contaminants, and human health effects. In fact, many studies have found no association at all between adverse health effects and Great Lakes fish consumption. Now levels of PCBs in Great Lakes fish today are a fraction of what they were in the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s when the participants of the health studies were exposed.

There is no evidence that consumption of properly prepared lake trout and whitefish currently being caught in Lakes Huron, Michigan and Superior are hazardous to public health. Furthermore, there is a definite health benefit for people choosing these fish over other sources of protein such as fatty meats and dairy products.

Unfortunately, it is in the interests of certain groups and individuals to continue scaring the public in order to leverage funding for cleanup and more research dollars. All of us want a clean, safe environment but let's spend the money cleaning up the Great Lakes not looking for something that isn't there.

"Tribal Fishing" is published by the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) Public Information program. The program is administered 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.

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.

Notice to Boaters

**POSSIBLE SALMON GILL NETS
in northern Lakes Michigan & Huron
from AUGUST thru OCTOBER**

▶ Please exercise extreme caution while boating in these areas during salmon season.

▶ Visibility will be limited during low-light or bad weather conditions.
▶ WARNING: Tampering with these or any other legally set nets is a violation of State and Federal law.

For more information, contact:

<p>CHIPPEWA OTTAWA RESOURCE AUTHORITY 175 W. Trees Mile, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 906-632-0043 cotfma@up.net</p>	<p>U.S. COAST GUARD St. Ignace, MI 49781 906-663-8181</p>	<p>Lt. Tim Burke, DNR 8015 Mackinac Trail, Cadillac, MI 49601 231-775-9727 90663-292-7800 1-800-292-7800</p>
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