



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

CORA tribes walleye stocking continues in 2001

By Jennifer Dale

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) stocked walleye throughout the region this year—over .4 million 2-inch fingerlings this spring and 10,000 8-inch fingerlings this fall. According to CORA's Fishery Enhancement Director Greg Wright, summer stocking went well.

During the months of June and July, Wright stocked 77,250 fingerlings in Northport Bay and Suttons Bay — about 200 pounds of fingerlings. Since CORA began stocking in the Grand Traverse area in 1998, Grand Traverse Band has received good return on the walleye, which has shown good survival and growth. CORA will continue to stock walleye in Grand Traverse Bay through at least 2004, as specified in the 2000 Consent Decree, said Erik Olsen, GTB fishery biologist who assisted stocking efforts in the Grand Traverse areas.

“The walleye stocking has helped diversify the fishery,” added Olsen. “With whitefish stocks down in Grand Traverse area, fishers can really use the additional fish to target.”

This year, CORA Fishery Enhancement made a major management decision to abandon the St. Martin's Bay, Lake Huron stocking site in favor of the upper St. Marys River. According to Wright, using the upper St. Marys could produce more fish overall that would filter through the river system, eventually providing increased

harvesting opportunities to both sport and commercial fishers throughout the St. Marys River and northern Lake Huron.

Wright said CORA's walleye eggs come from predominantly the St. Marys River with a smaller portion coming from Lake Michigan's Bay de Noc. In June and July, CORA Fishery Enhancement stocked 87,500 fingerlings in the Waishkey River, destined for life in Lake Superior. This July, Wright and his assistant Joel Cameron stocked 139,000 fingerlings — about 400 pounds — near Sugar Island in the St. Marys.

The fishery enhancement's remaining fingerlings were raised to 8 to 9 inches in a walleye pond near Barbeau, Mich. This is the eighth year Wright raised walleye in inland ponds where minnows are provided as walleye food. These larger, thus more competitive, walleye are stocked after the cormorant migrate for the winter. Wright is shooting for the perfect formula: 50,000 fish that weigh 10-15 to the pound, each 5 to 7 inches long.

This year, fish were 8 to 9 inches long, about 6.25 fish to the pound. Starting out in the beginning of summer with 80,000 3-inch fingerlings, Wright hoped for 25,000 to stock. However, due to reasons unknown at this time, only 10,000 were available for stocking. Wright is unsure what factors led up to fewer fish — ponds were drained



Right, CORA Fishery Enhancement Director Greg Wright and GTB Fishery Biologist Erik Olsen (L-R) stocked over 61,000 walleye fry in Northport, Lake Michigan this past summer. 16,000 were stocked in Suttons Bay, Lake Michigan.

Above, a sample of fry stocked in Lake Michigan by CORA this summer.

without killing any fish, and there were minnows left over, he said.

The 10,000 pond-raised walleye were also stocked in the upper St. Marys River.



Photos by GTB News Editor Dave Spinneken, courtesy GTN Natural Resources Dept.

Summary of summer CORA walleye stocking, 2001, from CORA Fishery Enhancement

Location	Number Stocked	Pounds Stocked	Average Number per Pound
Waishkey River	82,183	224.75	366
Suttons Bay	16,013	45.75	350
Northport Bay	61,226	145.75	420
GTB Total	77,239	191.50	403
East Sugar Island	72,712	207.75	350
West Sugar Island	66,336	189.50	350
St. Marys River	139,048	397.25	350
Total			
North Culture Pond	92,847	288.25	322
			350
Big Bay De Noc	14,000	50.00	
Grand Total	405,317	1141.75	355

CORA NEWS BRIEFS

New CORA board, officers

November 2001 Bay Mills elections brought two new members to the CORA board. L. John Lufkins was elected Bay Mills Chairman. Tim Kinney stepped down from the Bay Mills Conservation Committee Chairman seat, having done his duty to help negotiate the 2000 Consent Decree, and Dave Menominee was elected.

CORA also voted new officers in for the CORA Board and the GLRC. New CORA Board chairman is Bob Guenthardt, and vice chairman is L. John Lufkins. After Gerry Chingwa declined to be re-nominated, Vic Matson Sr. was elected chairman of GLRC, and Chingwa vice chairman.

CORA MEETINGS BRIEFS

December 10

Great Lakes Resource Committee

The Great Lakes Resource Committee to CORA met Dec. 6 in Bay Mills Indian Community. Vic Matson Sr. chaired the meeting. Absent from the meeting was Robert Kewaygoshkum; representing Gerry Chingwa was Randy Claramunt; representing Bernard Bouschor was Fred Paquin; representing George Anthony was Kevin Willis. Matson congratulated L. John Lufkins as the newly elected Bay Mills chairman and Dave Menominee as the new Bay Mills Conservation Committee chairman.

REPORTS

Conservation Committees—

Dave Menominee, BMIC, reported that his committee looked at local access sites and Hammond Bay gill net opportunities, selected two trap netters for the Alpena permit, and the rest was in-house.

John Koon, LRB, reported a change in tribal regulations that move the number of trap net operations from six to 12. For November, in WFM07, LRB has two LRB fishers starting up trap nets. A Sault Tribe fisher was approved for a small mesh gill net operation,

leaving one for which fishers are welcome to apply. In WFM08, a Sault Tribe small mesh gill netter was approved for a permit. One more trap net permit is available for which fishers are welcome to apply, said Koon. The rest was in-house.

John Concannon reported all GTB matters were in-house. Kevin Willis reported that LTBB approved a permit for a Sault Tribe member in grid 314. The fisher needs to give tags back to LTBB in order to be considered for next season.

Vic Matson Sr. said that Sault Tribe dealt with US Coast Guard regulations, and supplied EPRBS (survival suits required by USCG regs) to fishers with big boats. The rest was in-house.

Biologists—

GTB's Erik Olsen reported fall lake trout spawning assessments. GTB Natural Resources staff commented on public feedback the Michigan DEQ received on a Beaver Island marina expansion, and have started aging scales for the next round of modeling.

LTBB's Randy Claramunt reported a lake trout monitoring project, a new whitefish project in WM04-05, investigating round goby impact in northern Lake Michigan. There seems to be an explosion of the goby population in

that area, he said. Staff has been working on a Great Lakes Fishery Trust-funded lake trout research for an egg deposition estimate and anecdotal information of whitefish egg deposition estimates. Figures for lake trout are much lower than last year's already low figures, he said. On the positive side, they found some "phenomenal" whitefish sites.

ITFAP's director, Tom Gorenflo, reported a Technical Fishery Committee (TFC) meeting to establish 2002 whitefish harvest limits — he hopes they are finalized within the month. Limits are set only in units shared by the tribe and state. Harvest regulations guidelines, "hrgs," are set for tribal areas, going through a TFC subcommittee, to the tribe's conservation committees and then to GLRC for approval, hopefully this February.

Gorenflo reported a lack of consensus on the TFC, which is supposed to make its decisions by consensus. He asked for a decision on the issue by the Executive Council overseeing the Consent Decree.

For Bay Mills, Ken Gebhardt reported monitoring gill net and trap net fishers in Hammond Bay and Whitefish Bay, aging whitefish scales, and compiling and entering data. He has prepared 2002 BMIC work plan for Bay Mills approval.

For LRB, Archie Martell reported that LRB completed its fall assessment; worked with the TFC and modeling subcommittee; helped a couple of LRB fishers start up operations; and sampled catch. LRB Natural Resources is working with its commission on permits, regulations changes, and readying data for the TFC modeling subcommittee.

For CORA, Environmental Coordinator Mike Ripley reported the contaminant monitoring final report for 2000 was good. In 2000, samples were taken from Lake Michigan. They tested skin-off fillets for the first time. Results were well below state advisory and federal guidelines.

Ripley reported asking for a government-to-government relationship with each state involved in Annex 2001 concerning water quality of the Great Lakes. CORA could represent tribes as a stakeholder group, he said. On the proposed Perrier plant — he is looking at an overall policy rather than a case-by-case policy.

The USFWS final report on cormorants is on its web page, he added.

Law Enforcement—

Fred Paquin reported for law enforcement. He said they have not had a meeting since Chairman Al Colby transferred out of LTBB law enforcement. The committee hopes to meet before Christmas to elect a new chairman.

CORA Resource Developer —

Bucko Teeple reported having two grant requests in the works. The ANA grant was submitted Oct. 26, but ANA later asked for a copy via FedEx due to the anthrax scare.

Teeple also has a GLFT grant for improvement to Dutcher on the burner.

The grant for \$190,233 comes with conditions, he said. They have to provide evidence of ample parking. Teeple requested having Meridian Consultants to design a parking lot layout and recommended the removal of a building on the site. Paquin recommended the staff look into the building removal. GLFT also wants to be assured the facility is open to the public with signage for recreational use. After assurance that the public would only use the launch area and mooring would be for tribal use, GLRC approved acceptance of the money under GLFT conditions. (Approval to remove the building is a CORA action.)

OFFICERS ELECTED

After a presentation of a letter from Gerry Chingwa that perhaps someone else could chair GLRC this year, GLRC voted in Vic Matson Sr. as chair, and Chingwa as vice chair.

The next meeting was scheduled for Jan. 24 at 1 p.m. in Little River's Manistee offices following a luncheon.

CORA

Held immediately following the GLRC meeting and with the same persons in attendance, the CORA meeting was chaired by Bob Guenthardt. Public Information Officer Jennifer Dale reported a release on the CORA reward for information leading to the theft of Tim Kinney's gear; that the board and staff could view the new website the next Tuesday for input before it becomes public; a fishery coalition's desire to build a relationship with lower Michigan fishing tribes (LRB is meeting with this coalition); and a 2002 workplan and budget.

The board elected Bob Guenthardt as its chair and L. John Lufkins as vice chairman, then renewed the 2002 attorney contract with Bay Mills Attorney Kathryn Tierney. The board voted to direct staff to find out what's necessary to dispose of the building on the Dutcher site in order to fulfill conditions of accepting a GLFT grant.

Tierney told the board of a recent letter to CORA stating that CORA is not tax exempt. COTFMA (pre-2001 CORA) never had tax exempt status, she said, because all the entities comprising COTFMA were tax exempt so it was always treated as tax exempt. She recommended staff be directed to contact the Detroit IRS office before going through all the trouble to become tax exempt. The board approved her recommendation.

The next meeting will be at 1 p.m. on April 25 at the Big Abe Building.



**Happy
Holidays**

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

CORA Board, Officers and Committee officers

Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC or Bay Mills)

L. John Lufkins, tribal chairman, CORA vice 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

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRB)

Bob Guenthardt, tribal chairman, CORA chairman
John Koon, Natural Resource Commission chairman

Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (LTBB)

Gerry Chingwa, tribal chairman, GLRC* vice 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, Law Enforcement Committee
Vic Matson Sr., Conservation Committee Chairman, GLRC 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



Protectors of the Earth youth camp held

Sault Tribe's Sugar Island Cultural Camp played host this summer to the inaugural Protectors of the Earth youth camp August 2001. Twenty six students ages 11-19 attended; 12 were African American, 13 were Native American and one student was not documented. Students came from rural and urban areas across the state: Brimley, Sault, Muskegon, Kalamazoo, Rudyard, Lansing, Vicksburg and Mt. Pleasant.

According to organizers, this first camp found a lot of success among the students. All student evaluations were positive. Students liked the raptor sessions

the best, then the warrior games and team building; the wetlands program, bear presentation, aquatic lab, CORA presentations and the powerhouse were tied. The wolf visit, the Lake Superior State University tour, cultural evening, forest service, all were noted by students. It seems the hands on sessions were most satisfactory, noted organizers.

Counselors also liked the raptor sessions the best, followed by wetlands, warrior games, and culture discussions; tied were the bear, aquatic lab, canoeing, cultural evening, then the wolf.

The effort to organize the camp began as a way to bring to

African American and Native American youth an awareness of the environment and natural resources, with the hope some would take an interest in learning more or considering natural resources careers.

The camp mission was to educate and create an awareness for students of all cultures to work together to protect the earth. Fun and games were incorporated into plenty of real learning. Students took notes, for example, on fish hatcheries, environmental remediation, engineering and medical plants. On the last day they prepared reports.

On the first day, the students

had team orientation, water and soil testing, a mini pow wow, and an African American program. The next day, they studied Great Lakes fish, environmental issues, and wetlands, went canoeing and had a cookout. The third day, they visited a toxic waste clean up site and LSSU, had an aquatics lab and a black bear presentation. The fourth day, they experienced Native and African American cultures, tribal plants, a raptor release, and civil and GIS engineering. The fifth day, they saw a forest service, Atikameg Group, and watershed association presen-

tation; practiced team building; and played warrior and traditional games. The sixth day, they presented team project accomplishments, attended an awards ceremony, and participated in a celebration of thanks and heard students' statements.

Presenters were Bud Biron, Bucko Teeple, Dr. Leroy Ray, Dale Thomas, James G. Marshall III, Deb LeBlanc, Dave Elliot, Carol Nilsson, Tony Watson, Terri Tavenor, Marge Gibson, Colleen Bailey, Ashleigh Erlichman, Gregg L. Bruff, Jim and Judy St. Arnold, and Glenn Lamberg.



Camp staff and coordinators were Michele Wellman, E. Selden Collins, Toby Rhue, Janet Walker, Jim Lucas, Heather Medina, Carrie Stark, Allison Boucher Krebs, Shelly Malik, Aaron Tadgerson, Glenn Lamberg, Doug Pine, Bee'dah'se'ga Elliot, Janie Brooks, Spencer Norman, Laura Abramson, Tammy Biron, Jeani Reffruschinni, Lou Anne Bush, Mary C. Cullen, James Minick, Debra-Ann Pine, Christa Rennells, Jeremy Stoppa, and Stephanie Sabatine.



Everyone's favorite event, the raptor release, accomplished above by Bucko Teeple.

Photos by Bucko Teeple



Staff and students paddle in sync.



Students observed testing at the Superfund site on the St. Marys where EPA clean up is in progress.



Students were: Bernice Biron, Jon Biron, Matt Boling, Monyae Franklin, LaChaundra (DeeDee) Hawkins, Michelle James, Ryan LaBranch, Clinton LaFaver IV, Natalie Marshall, Alyssa Marshall, Brandi Maxam, Ken McCoy, Darin McKnight, Intisar Muhammad, Marcine Nashu, Nicole Norman, Sasso Obrie, Amber Reffruschinni, Alex Rhue, Josh Rhue, Mike Sanders, Tyler Shank, Vicki Wellman-Teeple, Dainett Williams and John Young.

Removing fat and skin from Lake Michigan fish significantly reduces contaminants

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. — Testing of the edible portion of whitefish and lake trout fillets from Lake Michigan in 2000 shows levels of contaminants in those fish are well below federal guidelines for safe consumption. The fish tested were collected from commercial catches in northern Lake Michigan and analyzed at an independent laboratory.

The fish are tested as part of a long-term fish contaminant monitoring program conducted by the Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program (ITFAP) in order to determine contaminant levels in commercially caught fish. The results of these tests are then compared to levels of contaminants determined to be safe by various government agencies.

Lake Michigan fish were

tested for a wide range of contaminants including mercury, PCBs, dioxins and pesticides such as DDT. All fish were well below the guidelines for commercial fish issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Results were also below the Michigan Department of Public Health's guidelines for consumption of sport fish by the general public.

ITFAP tests its fish using the same methodology as the state of Michigan, with one important difference — ITFAP removes the skin and fat from the fillet before it is tested. As shown in the accompanying diagram, health authorities recommend that skin and fat be removed from the fillets prior to cooking because most contaminants of concern tend to accumulate in fat and fatty tis-

ues. Removal of these tissues actually reduces the amount of contaminants in the fillet.

Contaminant levels in fish from all of the Great Lakes have declined dramatically since the 1970s when regulations were put in place to reduce pollution.

These results should be encouraging for many people who enjoy eating Great Lakes fish especially since studies show that most Americans eat a diet high in saturated animal fats. It is estimated that Americans could dramatically reduce their risk of heart attack and stroke by switching to a more lean protein source such as properly prepared fish. For more information, contact Mike Ripley at (906) 632-0072.

THE BATTLE AGAINST EXOTIC INVADERS HAS BEEN JOINED

ANN ARBOR — The Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, the Great Lakes Fishery Trust and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission recently joined forces to measure the impact of aquatic nuisance species on the Great Lakes food web and on sport and commercial fisheries, according to a press release from the University of Michigan.

The partnership will enable the groups to prioritize funding and coordinate research. The coordinated approach will make individual research projects more effective, such as how food web structure in one lake can be used to predict future impacts in the other lakes. The groups also hope that this approach will increase research opportunities.

"This partnership is a critical step in our efforts to understand how non-native species are currently disrupting food webs and what these food webs are likely to look like in the future," said Bernie Hansen, chair of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

The partnership will focus on the effects of four non-native invertebrates: zebra mussels, quagga mussels, spiny water flea, and fishhook water flea. Over the past 15 years, these four species have invaded the Great Lakes. Each year, they have had an increasingly severe impact on the lakes' ecosystems, stated the press release.

The Great Lakes Sea Grant Network is comprised of university-based programs in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. They conduct Great Lakes research, education and outreach, and are funded by the National Sea Grant College Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

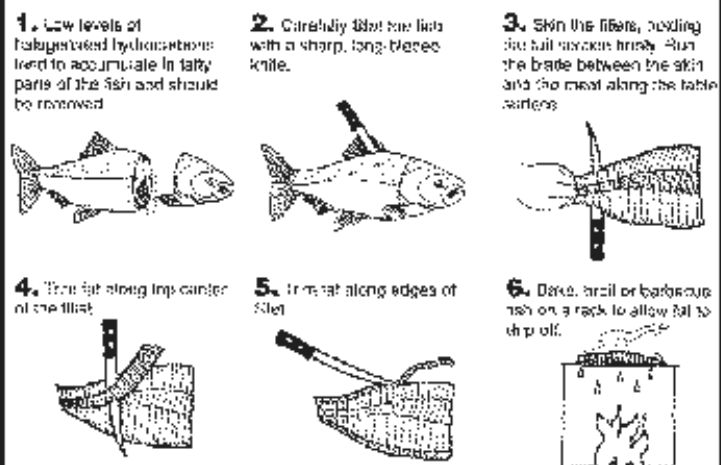
Michigan Sea Grant, a collaborative program with Michigan State University and headquartered at U of M, is part of the Network. Recently, Jennifer Read was named assistant director at

Michigan Sea Grant. Read is a specialist in Great Lakes pollution and brings years of experience in environmental program development, research, and management to her new position. Read may be reached at 734-936-3622 or by e-mail at jenread@umich.edu.

The Great Lakes Fishery Trust was created to compensate Michigan citizens for the lost use and enjoyment of Lake Michigan fisheries resulting from the operation of the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant. Trustees represent the State of Michigan, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, National Wildlife Federation, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, created under the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries of 1955, was formed by the governments of Canada and the U.S.A. with its goal being to control sea lamprey, coordinate fishery management, and conduct research.

CLEANING GREAT LAKES FISH



(Figure 1. Reprinted from Food Safety News, a publication of the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service.)

Cool approves South Fox land exchange

From the Michigan DNR

LANSING—Concluding more than a decade of negotiations with a private landowner, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director K.L. Cool recently approved the DNR staff recommendation to accept a proposal consolidating state and private properties on South Fox Island, located 30 miles off the coast of Leelanau.

Cool made the announcement at the Michigan Natural Resources Commission's regular monthly meeting, Dec. 6-7, in Lansing. The NRC previously had endorsed the exchange, which consolidates state land holdings in the northern end of the island and provides contiguous property lines for the island's only private landowner.

"This is a smaller exchange than we previously considered, but it better enables us to meet the department's management objectives for the island," Cool said. "Visitors, especially the limited number of hunters who use the area, will benefit from the fact that it secures the landing access area on the northeast face and provides clearer hunting boundaries in the northern half of the island."

A copy of the proposal, along with a map of the island describing the exchange, is available on the DNR Web site at www.michigandnr.com <<http://www.michigandnr.com>>. A copy of Cool's statement on this issue is attached.

DNR staff presented to the NRC the 2001 firearm deer season harvest preliminary estimates, based on information gathered at DNR check stations throughout the state. Biologists said this year's statewide harvest was 16 percent below the previous five-year average.

They cited unusually warm weather as a significant contributing factor, adding that it appears the previous winter had taken a heavier toll on the Upper Peninsula herd than previously thought. Department staff also noted that last year's harvest figures for the U.P. were among the highest ever recorded. Detailed information is available on the DNR Web site.

Safari Club International presented its annual Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year award to CO Andrew Bauer, a 10-year veteran of the DNR Law Enforcement Division. Bauer, who works in Berrien County, was presented the award at the NRC meeting. The Safari Club distinction makes him the DNR's Conservation Officer of the Year as well.

DNR Director Cool announced that Dennis Knapp has officially joined the DNR as an Assistant Legislative Liaison. Knapp, who comes to the DNR following 11 years with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, has been MUCC's resource policy director since 1998. He was introduced to the commission at their recent meeting.

Knapp, who officially begins work with the DNR Jan. 1, said he is excited to make the transition.

"For someone with my background, there is no greater position that could be obtained than working with a premier, nationally-recognized natural resources agency like the Michigan DNR," Knapp said.

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission is Jan. 10-11 in Lansing.

\$2,000 reward

offered for information about fishing gear theft in the Cheboygan River last October

Reward money has been pledged in the investigation of the theft of fishing gear from the trap net boat Shamrock docked in the Cheboygan River. The theft took place between October 14 and October 18.

Stolen items are six 73-pound anchors, a 30-foot green poly trap net, and a brown canvas tarp.

All information will be treated confidentially. Rewards of \$1,000 each have been posted by CORA and the Shamrock's owner. The

reward money will go to the tip that leads to the arrest and conviction for this act of theft. The crime may also fall under federal civil rights laws and the Michigan Ethnic Intimidation Act.

If you have any information regarding this crime, please contact CORA Executive Director Faith McGruther at 906-632-0043; Bay Mills Conservation at 906-248-3241; or Cheboygan Department of Public Safety at 231-627-4322 or -4321.

"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.

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