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Vessels be aware of permitted tribal trap nets in Lake Michigan

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 increases vessel navigation concerns for other boaters.

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).

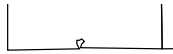
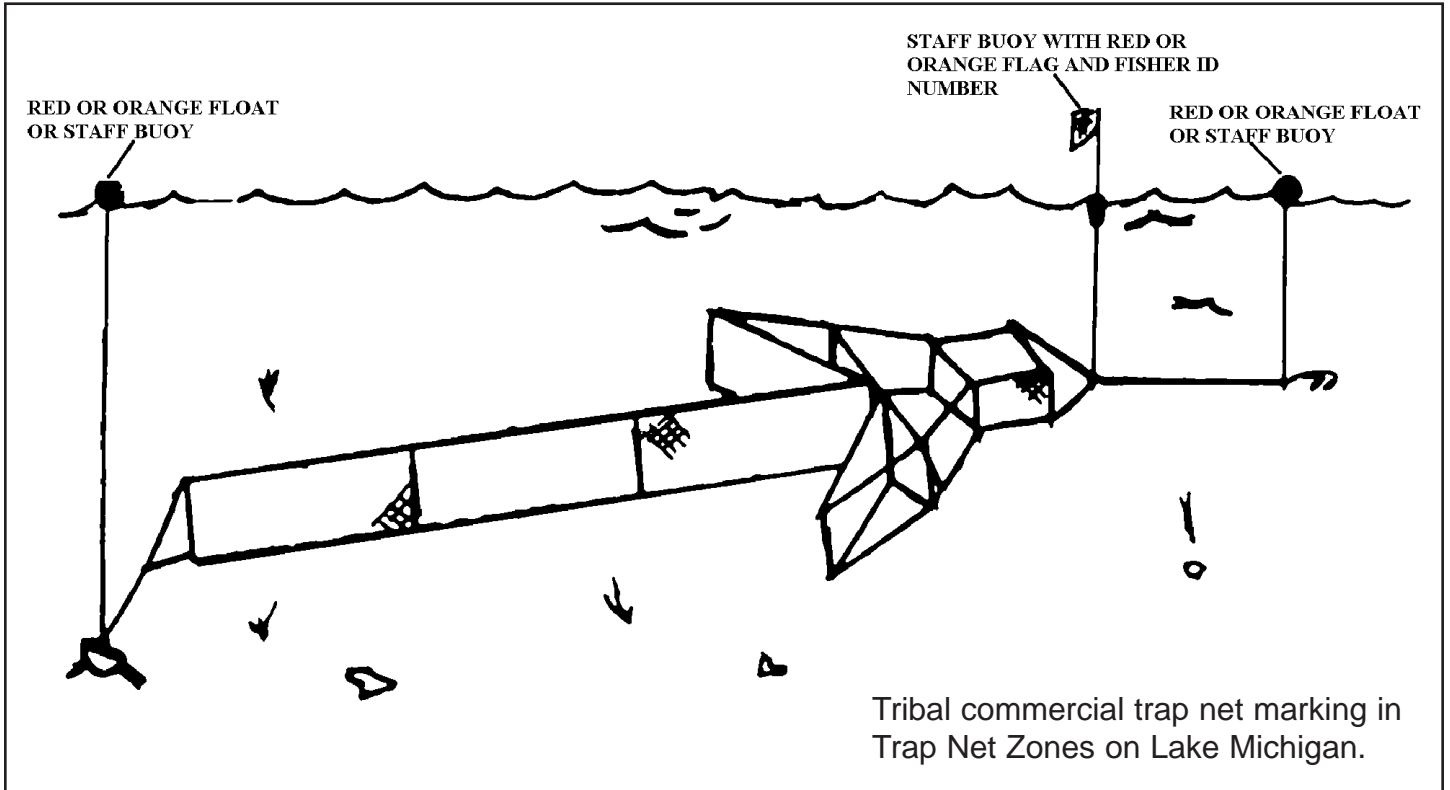
Two areas allow limited trap net fishing: the Lake Michigan Northern Development Zone from west of the Grand Traverse Tribal Zone allows for an aggregate effort of 12 nets targeting whitefish. The Lake Michigan Southern Development Zone from just north of Pentwater to Grand Haven in waters to the middle 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.

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or see "What's New" on www.cotfma.org.*

CORA regulates commercial fishing for its member tribes (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Bay Mills Indian Community, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians) in the 1836 treaty ceded territory.



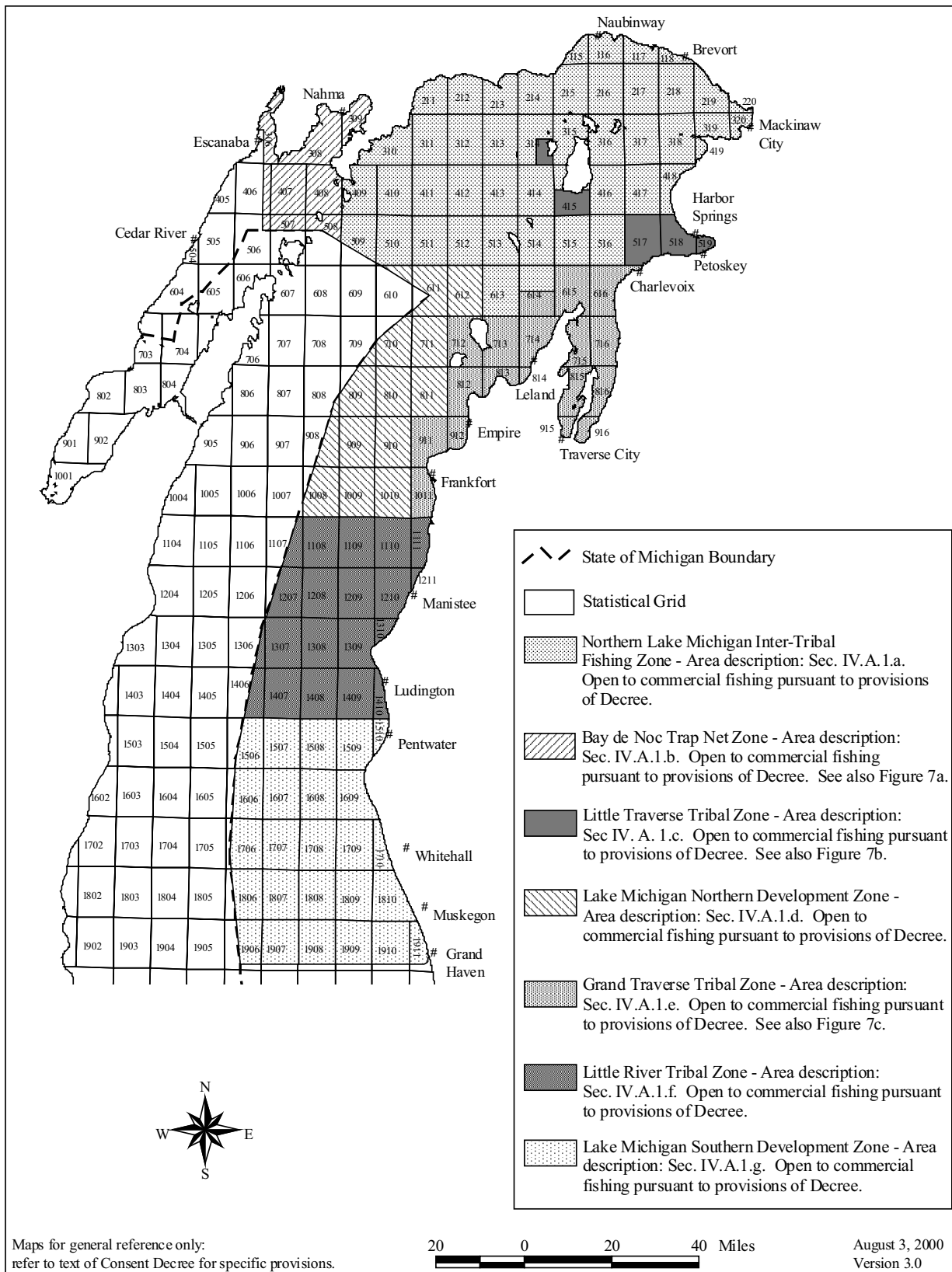


Figure 7. Lake Michigan Tribal Fishing Zones.