

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
July 5, 2001

Contact: Lt. Terry Carrick,
Bay Mills Law Enforcement, (906) 248-3244;
Lt. Tim Burke, Michigan DNR (231) 775-9727

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

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 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.

—30—

Trap net zone map & net marking graphics follow. Contact Jennifer Dale, 906-248-3241, ext. 1170, or newspaper@bmic.net, for an electronic version of this release & graphics; to be posted on www.cotfma.net. Copies of the Consent Decree may be downloaded from www.cotfma.net

“Vessels Be Aware of Permitted Tribal Trap Nets near Rogers City, Presque Isle, and Rockport”: Trap net marking graphic and trap net zone map

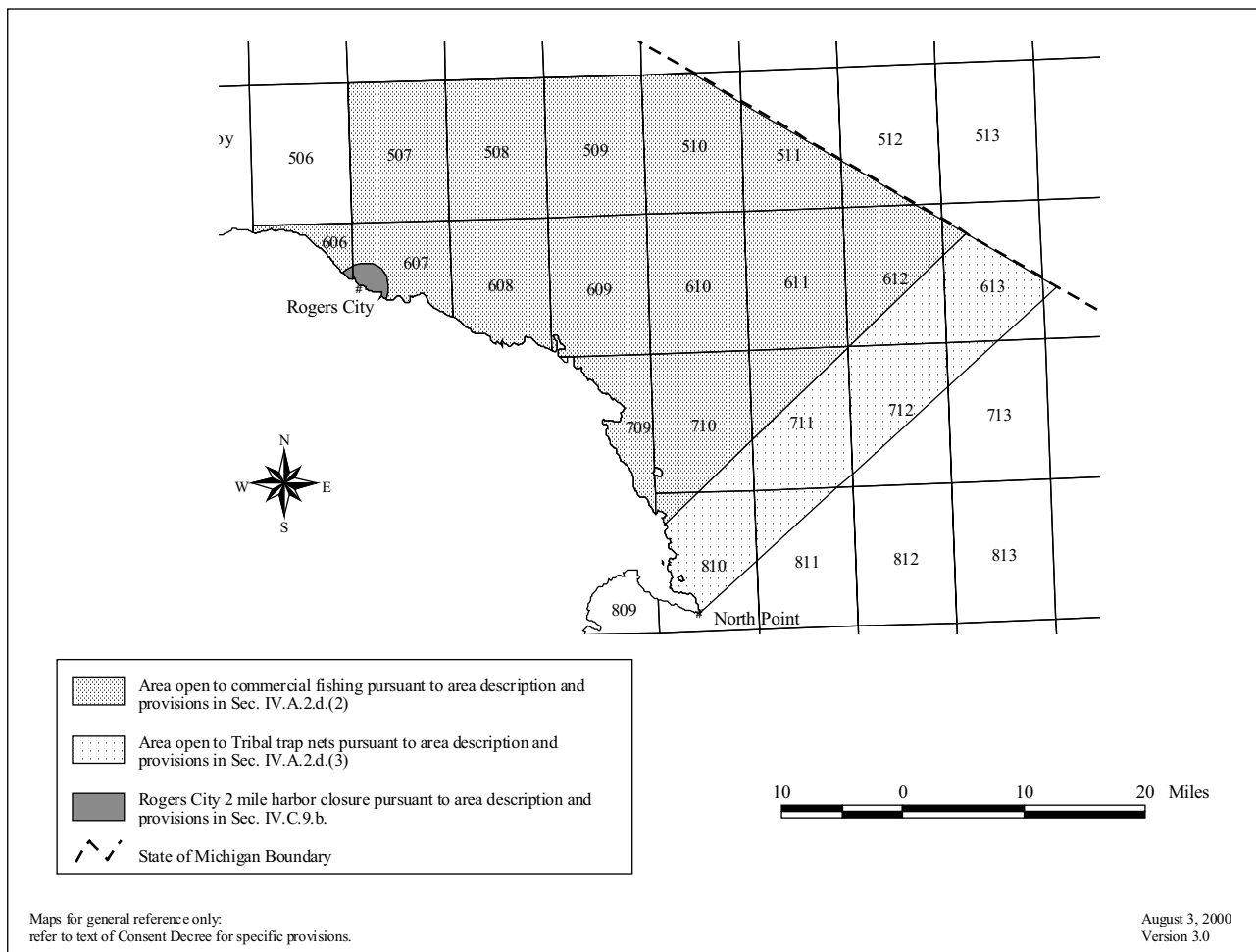
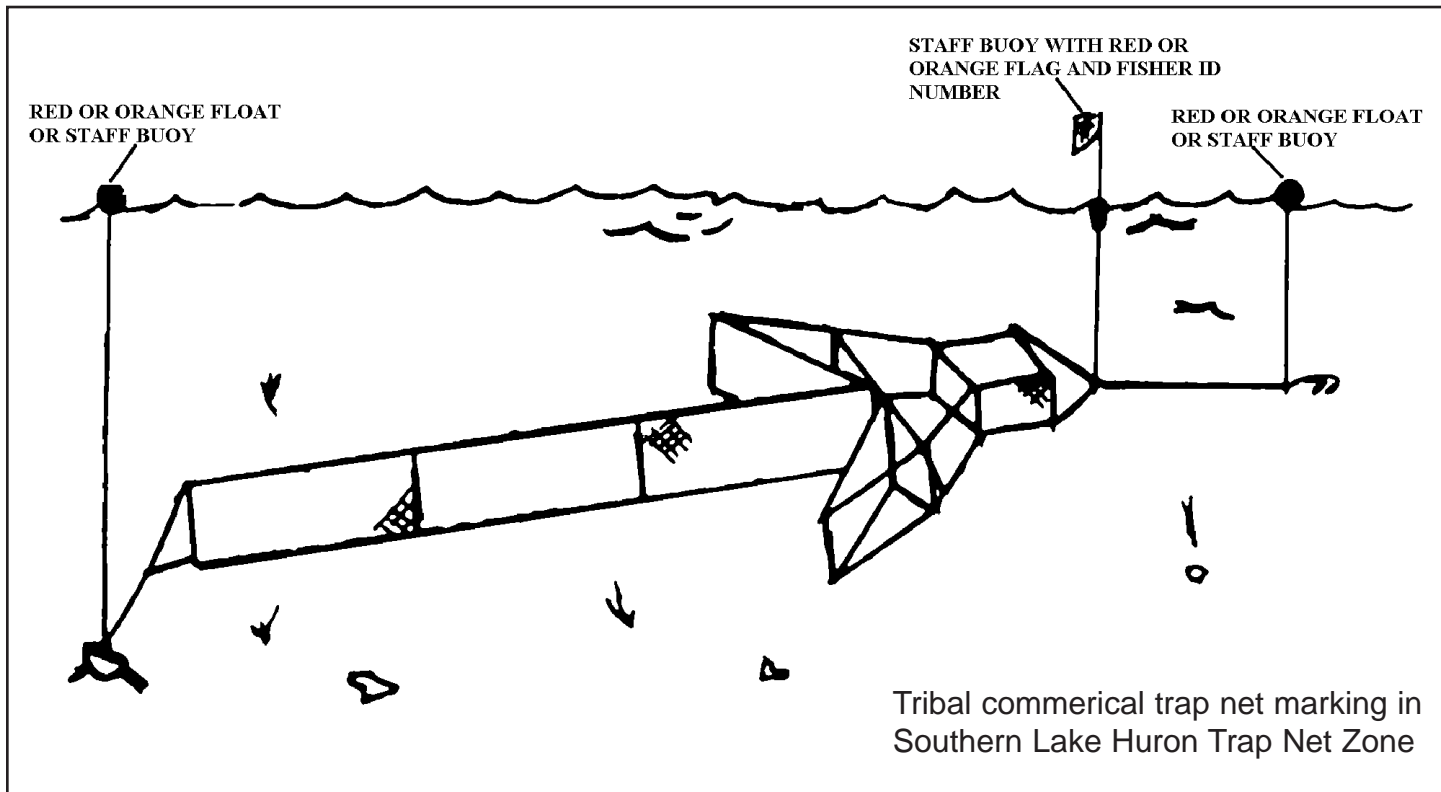


Figure 8b. Southern Lake Huron Trap Net Zone Detail (Sec. IV.A.2.c. of Consent Decree.)