

PRESERVING *The* RESOURCE *For the Seventh Generation*

"Adikamamego-giizis," Whitefish Moon • Bimonthly Journal of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority • November 2005 Vol. 9 No. 6

1836 treaty area law enforcement sees 80 percent decline in abandoned nets

Last year, law enforcement officers in the 1836 treaty waters oversaw the removal of over 20 nets, both trap and gill. This year saw far less. As of October, officers removed two trap nets and three gill nets, 10- to 12,000 feet all together, according to Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians



Conservation Officer Kevin Willis.

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority paid a total of \$15,000 for the removal of the five nets. A CORA-contracted fisherman with trap net gear pulls the nets.

Willis chairs the abandoned net subcommittee to the Law Enforcement Committee under the 2000 Consent Decree.

The Law Enforcement Committee is made up of law enforcement officers from state and tribal agencies in the 1836 treaty-ceded territory on the upper Great Lakes.

According to CORA regulations, a net is abandoned if it is not marked and cannot be identified or has not been used or tended by the fisher for two weeks. A law enforcement officer makes this determination and tags the net as abandoned.

To report a net you believe to be abandoned, contact your local tribal or state conservation enforcement agency.



Photo courtesy Tribal Law Enforcement

CORA contracted John Schlappi, captain of the fishing tug *Mishomis*, to remove two trap nets from Hammond Bay, Lake Huron, earlier this year. Fishermen have the necessary expertise and gear to minimize the risk law enforcement officers would otherwise take. At left, a close-up of the recovered impoundment gear.

The verdict is in: Fish is good for you

By Jennifer Dale

If you have stopped eating fish because you are pregnant or thinking of becoming pregnant, you may be doing a disservice to your unborn baby. If you are not a woman of childbearing age, you may be making an even bigger mistake, according to a new study on the benefits versus the risks of eating fish.

The study found that women of childbearing age who substitute low mercury fish for high mercury fish experience substantial benefits for themselves and their newborns — with few negative impacts. On the other hand, decreasing fish consumption substantially reduces net benefits. Other adults mistakenly and inappropriately reducing their fish consumption realize a negative impact on their overall health, the study found.

Here is the challenge: Although a rich source of omega-3 fatty acids that provide multiple health benefits, some fish contain methyl mercury that may harm a developing fetus. The human body can't make omega-3s, so they must be obtained from somewhere. Because of the nutritional value of fish, risk managers have carefully targeted their message to women of childbearing age, encouraging them to alter the type of fish that they consume, rather than the amount. For other adults, they encourage more overall fish consumption.

However, women and other adults may think, "If some fish could be bad for me (and my baby), then

Favorite Great Lakes Fish Species

Low in Mercury, High in Omega-3s

	Omega-3 Fatty Acid Grams / 3 oz. serving
Lake Herring.....	3.6
Chubs.....	3.5
Lake Whitefish	3.4
Lean Lake Trout.....	3.0

(Compare to canned tuna: 1.5-1.6 g/3oz)

eating no fish is the best choice." Or is it?

The Harvard Center for Risk Analysis convened an expert panel to investigate. The panel did a risk-benefit analysis under five best to worst scenarios. These scenarios were described in the November issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine in, "A Quantitative Risk-Benefit Analysis of Changes in Population Fish Consumption."

In the best scenario, simply getting people to follow USDA 2005 Dietary Guidelines (recommending two meals of fish per week) would benefit the public health greatly. According to the article, the panel's model indicated that if all adults consumed 8 ounces of fish high in omega-3s and low in methyl mercury (such as Lake Superior whitefish or lean lake trout), then:

- 1) Annual CHD mortality would drop by nearly 20,000 cases,
- 2) Annual stroke mortality and nonfatal stroke incidence would each drop by 4,000 cases, and,
- 3) Newborns' IQ would increase by approximately 0.5 IQ points.

The panel warned that advisories may be misinterpreted by the public, such as causing women of childbearing age and perhaps other adults to lower their fish consumption. The study looked at scenarios in which women of childbearing age cut fish consumption — that lost them some benefits. If a pregnant woman's immediate family also decreased fish consumption, a few more health benefits were lost. Finally, if everyone reduced their fish consumption — the worst scenario — the impact to the public health became negative, mostly because of the death from chronic heart disease and stroke.

Due to this impact to women of childbearing age, and the spillover effect to other segments of the population, the article suggested that advisories may not be the way to go, recommending the risk managers take a careful look at how they advise on fish consumption.

The article went one step further, suggesting that markets for fish high in omega-3s and low in mercury be subsidized in order to become more accessible to the general public. In this suggestion, the panel associated availability with price.



GLFC battles to control Sea Lamprey

By Jennifer Dale

Sea lampreys continue to be a problem on the Great Lakes and that's not going to change in the near future, according to Fishery Assessment Biologist Mark Ebener, Inter-Tribal Fisheries Assessment Program.

The Great Lakes have seen a surge in lamprey abundance over the last decade and a parallel increase in sea lamprey wounding rates on lake trout and other fish, also called "marking rates." The sea lampreys attach themselves to lake trout and other fish kill them by feeding on their blood.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission has responded to these increased levels of sea lamprey abundance with more funding for sea lamprey control. Nevertheless, said Ebener, this year saw some of the highest spawning phase sea lamprey population estimates in years in Lake Superior, along with high marking rates. Control measures funded by the Commission more than doubled in 2005 on Lake Superior.

In Lake Michigan, lamprey estimates show a 50 percent decline in lamprey abundance from 2004 to 2005, but marking rates on lake trout are still high (see table, lower right, for Lake Michigan). In Lake Huron, lampreys are still abundant, but marking rates are less than both Lakes Superior and Michigan (see table).

Ebener believes it is because the Seneca strain of lake trout stocked in Huron are much less vulnerable to sea lamprey attacks, although he stressed that is his own conclusion.

In Lake Superior, a new initiative is being undertaken by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission as researchers try to understand the status of populations of lamprey in the lentic areas, just off the mouth of rivers. Ebener said these populations are not regularly treated, and researchers need to know if they are part of the reason for the increase in lamprey abundance.

In Lake Michigan, the Commission funded treatments for several large tributaries including the Manistique River that had not been treated in a very long time. The Manistique River was treated in 2003 and 2004. In Lake Huron, things look good from a sea lamprey perspective, said Ebener. But make no mistake, he added, there are still a lot of sea lamprey in Huron.

Most important is that Great Lakes Fishery Commission funneled more funding into chemical control. "The GLFC had been spending more on alternative treatments and assessments, and I think we've seen the consequences of that in the upper Great Lakes — more sea lamprey and higher marking rates," Ebener said.

The focus needed to go back to control, with more people in the field applying more treatments. Chemical control aside, research on alternative treatments is still very important, stressed Ebener, and extremely promising. Research efforts on sterile male release in the St. Marys River continue with over 20,000 sterile males

released annually. In combination with chemical treatments in areas of the St. Marys with high larval sea lamprey densities and trapping of adults, the lamprey population in the river has been reduced, said Ebener.

The Commission is also moving quickly ahead with pheromone-related research, added Ebener. While field-testing is encouraging, the \$300,000 per ounce cost of just one of the pheromones used is daunting. Right now, the Commission is trying to synthesize the pheromones. There are two: a migratory pheromone and a spawning pheromone.

The migratory pheromone comes from larval lamprey bile acids to cue the adults into certain streams where there are a lot of larvae. This tells the lamprey that it's a good stream for reproduction. The spawning pheromone is released by males to attract females for mating. In field-testing, the sex pheromone was used to attract adult female lampreys to a particular area of a river for trapping. Managers do have to choose a river where trapping can be effective, said Ebener, adding that once the population of spawning females falls under the critical number needed, they can't reproduce effectively. And, that's the prospect of using pheromones.

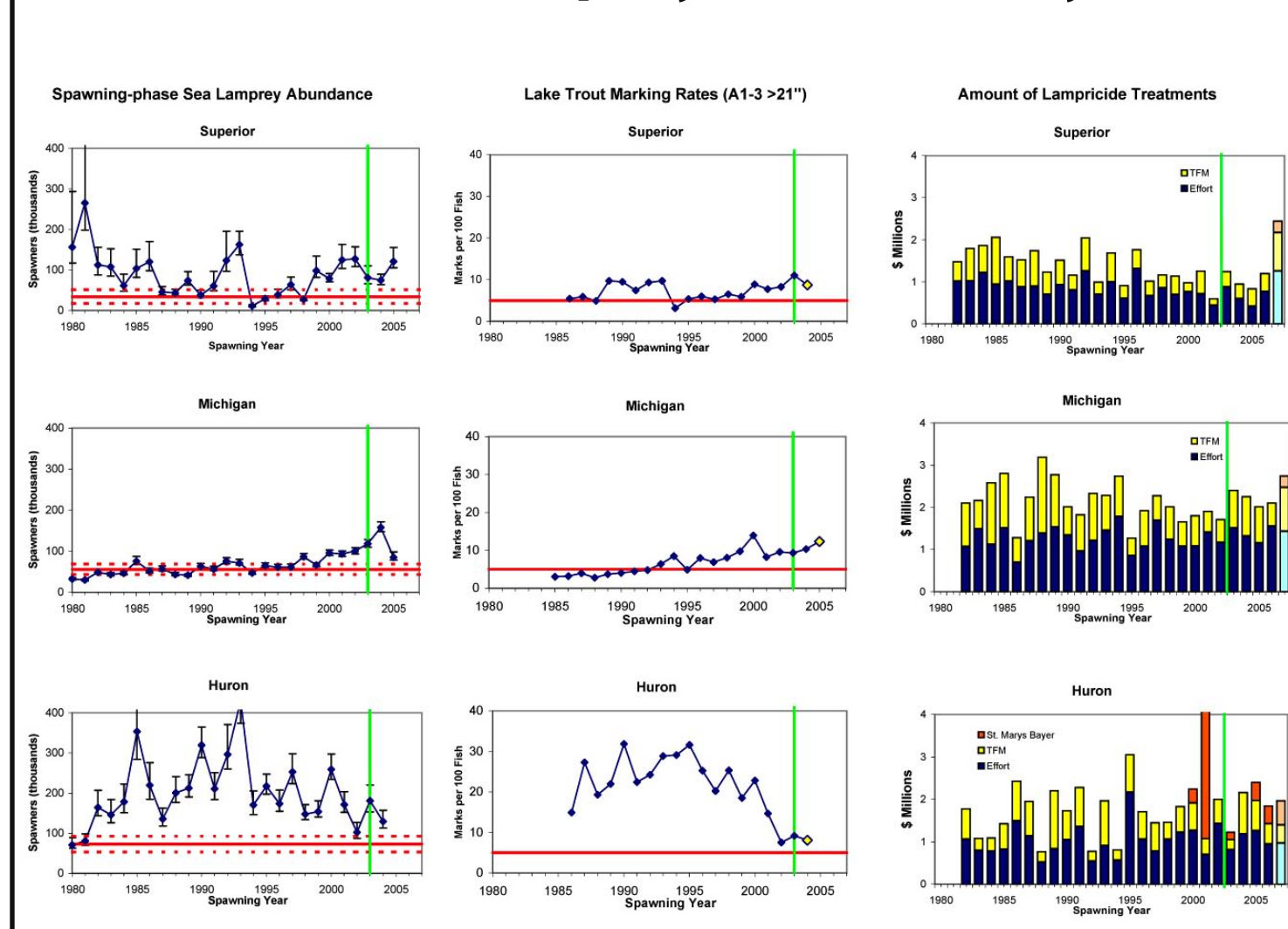
The Great Lakes Fishery Commission's vision is an integrated program that uses pheromones, traps and chemical treatment to suppress the sea lamprey population, summed Ebener. Researchers do have a successful model, he said. Using pheromone-baited traps, scientists have largely succeeded in eradicating boll weevils from U.S. cotton fields in the southern United States.



Courtesy GLFC

PECULIAR PARASITE — The Sea Lamprey continues to fascinate and repel us. The eel-like creatures clamp on to lake trout and other fish in order to feed on their blood.

Status of Sea Lamprey Control, July 2005



CORA begins new registration process

Commercial and subsistence fishers to register vessels, ORVs and snowmobiles with Resource Authority

SAULT STE. MARIE — Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority registrations will all expire December 31, 2005. In their place, new registrations will be issued to all CORA member-tribes' commercial and subsistence fishers. The registrations will cover vessels, ORVs and snowmobiles used for fishing activities on the Great Lakes and therefore subject to CORA Regulations.

Tribal government — such as research vessels and conservation — will receive its own designation.

The red-colored stickers will show CORA as the registration. Snowmobiles are designated as "SNO," Commercial Vessels as "CV," subsistence vessels as "SV," and tribal government as "TG," followed by a four-digit number. So, a CORA-registered commercial fishing vessel sticker might read, "CORA:

CV1000."

There is no fee to register and the stickers are good for three years, said Jane TenEyck, CORA's executive director.

Formerly, CORA registrations did not expire and were often hopelessly outdated. In some cases, scuttled vessels and even deceased fishermen were still on the books. This made the system useless as a management tool.

"The new system will give us a handle on what's really out there," said TenEyck. Fishermen will be notified by mail with instructions on how to obtain their stickers. Those subject to the registration must obtain their new stickers by Dec. 31.

Fishers who may be overlooked in the mailing, due to a recent move or an outdated mailing address, can contact CORA at 906-632-0043.



Photo by Jennifer Dale

NEW STICKERS — CORA Executive Director Jane TenEyck and Administrative Assistant Bev Aikens (L-R) display CORA's registration stickers for commercial and subsistence fishers' vessels, and ORVs and snowmobiles used for fishery-related activities. Good Jan. 1, 2006, the registration term is 3 years and there is no fee. Below is an example:

**CHIPPEWA OTTAWA RESOURCE AUTHORITY
Other Registration**

CORA: ORV3010

Expiration 08

Emerald Ash Borer reminder: DO NOT MOVE FIREWOOD

Emerald Ash Borer infested firewood remains a major concern to forest managers. The fact that new outbreaks are being found outside of the quarantine areas indicates that not everyone is aware of the risk and dangers that this non-native pest poses, according to a Forest Service press release.

"We are very concerned about the devastation to ash trees resulting from EAB that has already occurred in Lower Michigan," said Acting Hiawatha National Forest Supervisor Beth LeClair in the release.

"There are infestations that have been found surrounding the Huron-Manistee National Forest and near the Hiawatha National Forest," LeClair added.

To prevent the spread of Emerald Ash Borer infested wood, the Forest Service advises the following:

DO NOT MOVE FIREWOOD.

Do not bring firewood from home. If you plan to camp or burn firewood, use local sources of firewood. If you have already brought firewood from home or have firewood at your camp that you brought from home, do not take it

back home and **DO NOT LEAVE IT—BURN IT!!**

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a non-native insect that has already devastated 8-12 million Ash trees in Michigan alone, according to the USFS. Infestations began near Detroit, Mich., two to three years ago. The borer kills almost every ash tree it infests.

Under the quarantine, it is illegal to move ash trees, branches, lumber, firewood and other materials from these areas unless chipped to less than one inch. Despite the quarantine, EAB continues to advance in Michigan, northwestern Ohio, northeastern Indiana and Windsor, Ontario.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Forest Service, Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana are working together in EAB survey, eradication, and control efforts. If unchecked, the Emerald Ash Borer could kill most, if not all, of the 7 billion ash trees in the Eastern United States.

For more information about EAB and its spread contact <<http://www.emeraldashborer.info>> or <<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/eab>>.

Tribe to conduct feasibility study

SAULT STE. MARIE — Thanks to a \$69,474 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant, Sault Tribe will conduct a feasibility study to research commercial fish markets. The study, to be conducted by industry experts, will help Sault Tribe to develop a business plan and conduct other marketing activities to revitalize its fishermen's commercial markets, according to Jeff Holt, of

Sault Tribe Administration,

Tribal fishermen have faced increasing difficulty marketing their fish. Among other factors, Canadian imports have had a harmful impact on established markets, competing for the tribes' markets for lake whitefish and pushing down wholesale prices.

The tribe hopes to complete the study within the year, according to Holt.

National Forest rule clarified — Public comment period no longer needed for activities excluded from EIS: permits available

ESCANABA — The Hiawatha National Forest is once again able to sell firewood, bough and Christmas tree permits, according to a press release.

On October 19, Judge James Singleton (Eastern District of California) clarified that the Forest Service

would not have to offer public notice, opportunity to comment or appeal, on all activities that are categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment.

Instead, Judge Singleton's order reinstated agency rules

that were developed in 1993 and supplemented in 2000, according to the press release.

Permits for boughs, firewood and Christmas trees may be purchased at any one of the five Forest Offices on the Hiawatha (Rapid River, Manistique, Munising, St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie).



Nab the Aquatic Invader!

Be a Sea Grant Super Sleuth

“Nab the Aquatic Invaders! Be a Sea Grant Super Sleuth” website was developed through a National Strategic Initiatives Grant. Many programs collaborated with other education and outreach staff members of the seven Great Lakes Sea Grant programs to develop this national education site on aquatic invasive species.

The site is a fun place for kids to go learn about invasive species. It starts out with, “Major arrests need to be made in the fight against invading aquatic plants and animals. These invaders have hitchhiked to U.S. waters and are on the loose creating huge problems. We’re looking for kids in grades 4–10 who want to help book these “bad guys’ for their disruptive activities.”

Kids can see the case ‘profiles’ on Louie “sucker mouth” Sea Lamprey, {Purple “Lucky” Loosestrife, Clyde “The Smacker” Silver Carp, and many more. They can read descriptions and background on the offenders and how they snuck into the country, along

with mug shots and high crimes against the environment and the reward for controlling these mobsters.

Sea Grant makes teaching the kids about invasive species almost as much fun as learning about them, and almost as easy, with a curriculum and a wealth of resources. See <http://www.sgnis.org/kids/>. (Graphics Courtesy National Sea Grant)



OUTLAWED—Louie is one of many invaders wanted for high crimes against the environment. Kids can learn all about these outlaws, and teachers can get more free resources, at “Be a Sea Grant Super Sleuth” site.



Photo by Jennifer Dale

TASTES LIKE CHICKEN? — Imagine the above mushrooms a bright sulfur orange and that’s exactly what they look like. The choice edible chicken-of-the-wood mushroom is common in the Northwoods.

2005 Mushroom gathering: late but great



Photo by Jennifer Dale

FRUITS OF THE FOREST — Cinnabar chanterelles were found in the eastern Upper Peninsula from July through mid-October this year. Cinnabars are more delicate and of a redder hue than their yellow chanterelle counterparts that also grow in Michigan.

By Jennifer Dale

This summer’s drought, which ruined some berry and nut harvest, also skewed the mushroom seasons. Let’s not talk about morels. Some people had good luck and others had none.

For awhile, it seemed like there would be no summer mushrooms. Then one day, all sorts suddenly started popping up.

Some of the first to show up were cinnabar chanterelles, then chicken of the woods (or sulphur shelf) growing on oak, then boletes and russalas. Puffballs were appearing everywhere.

Honey mushrooms began fruiting on stumps, then coral mushrooms in the moss, then more chanterelles and a few yellow ones, then inky bottoms and shaggy manes in the meadows.

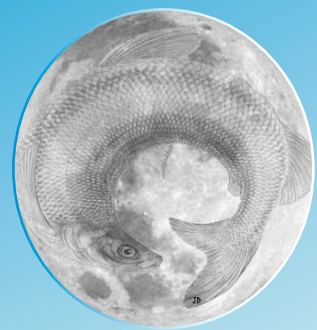
There were many more, but since we weren’t sure of their identification, they went uneaten. Many edible varieties have poisonous or at least inedible look-

a likes. For example, chanterelles have a poisonous look-alike called jack-o’-lantern mushrooms. There are a number of very dangerous mushrooms growing in Michigan — such as death cap and amaritas. So know your mushrooms before eating them. Learn from your elder or someone who can show you a mushroom variety in the flesh.

There is plenty to do with mushrooms besides saute them in butter. They can be used in garden mixes with your tomatoes, zucchini and onions, eggplants, etc. They go great with rice, in omelettes, with steak and other meats. There’s a lot of good recipes out there for mushrooms. But what to do when you have picked too many? Mushrooms are perishable and don’t last long. Fortunately they can be dried, frozen, or canned. Some varieties, such as chicken of the wood, should be par-boiled before drying.

And, yes, it does taste like chicken.

Adikamamego-Giizis



Whitefish Moon

The Anishinabeg traditional calendar has 13 months, or moons. Each month is named for something of significance during that time, so it makes sense that month names are regional.

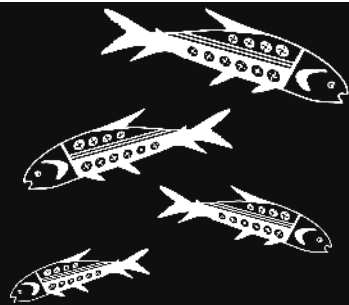
Hereabouts, November is Adikamamego-Giizis or Whitefish Moon, because that’s when it cools off and the whitefish come in to spawn. These days, CORA tribes protect spawning whitefish with an annual closure whitefish November 6 through November 29.

Whitefish is a desirable food. It tastes good and is highly nutritious. It can be eaten fresh or preserved by drying. The entire fish including the bones can be powdered and stored. Whitefish livers are still considered a delicacy by some. These days, it’s probably not good to eat inner organs.

Whitefish bladders were used to tan hides and remains could be used as fertilizer.

Deadline

The next deadline for the CORA newsletter “Preserving the Resource” (formerly “Tribal Fishing”) is Monday, Jan. 2. Call or write Jennifer Dale at the CORA Public Information & Education Program 906-632-0043, or jmdale@chippewaottawa.org.



Trap Net Boat For Sale

1980 36-foot, Steel Trap Net Boat, 115HP Perkins, 600 Hours on Motor, 4-axle Boat Trailer, Excellent Shape, \$40,000 Firm
Call Tim, 906-248-2150