MUNISING BAY FISHING TALKS TO CONTINUE

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Fortunately, LeBlanc and his crew were able to find and retrieve the nets. Tribal and MDNR officers are investigating the net tampering, which is a federal offense.

The 2000 Consent Decree that went into effect Sept. 7, 2000, opened the waters to gill netting operations. LeBlanc is one of the tribal fishermen from the Bay Mills Indian Community and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians who have since staged limited gill netting operations in the bay. They have been closely watched by local residents and fishermen.

The crime spurred a community meeting held by the Munising Bay Fisherman’s Association in mid-January and attended by Michigan DNR officials. Sport fishermen want the tribes to remove the nets. The tribes, from the beginning, wanted Munising Bay as part of the fishing pact.

Bay Mills Indian Community agreed to meet with sport fishing representatives and state officials about the Munising Bay gill net fishery. At the end of January, the tribe met in the morning with Michigan DNR, Governor and Attorney General’s Office staff. The Munising Bay Fish Committee and Michigan United Conservation Clubs provisions to the agreement provided that all parties to the Decree agree.

New study looks at Great Lakes ships’ ballast residual

A new University of Michigan study will examine whether ships entering the Great Lakes pose a threat to the ecosystem, even when declaring no ballast on board, according to a Blade Columbus Bureau (Columbus, Ohio). The study will determine the effectiveness of exchanging ballast water at sea to reduce risk.

Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystem Research, based at the University of Michigan, was funded by the Governor’s Great Lakes Protection Fund. Researchers conducting the $1.1 million study will collect samples of ballast water to determine biological content. Threats to the ecosystem found in the water could be exotic species, bacteria or microbes. Residual water is still present even after ballast is pumped out, according to researchers. Ships declaring “no ballast” account for 90 percent of 600 ships annually entering the Great Lakes system, according to the article.

Website to get upgrade

A new website to replace the old COTFMA website will be called www.1836cora.org. The new site will go up when a CORA logo has been selected.

There were 16 entries made to the CORA logo contest, all very beautiful. The entries will be presented at the next CORA meeting for the selection of a winner. All entries will be posted on the Internet when the winner is named.

When the new site goes up, the old site www.cotfma.org will remain but no further changes will be made. It will also be used to refer surfers to the new site.

For now, stay updated at www.cotfma.org.

Treaty Fishing Q&A

Bay Mills Indian Community Attorney Kathryn Tierney made a presentation on the 2000 Consent Decree at a recent Michigan Outdoor Writer’s Association conference held in St. Ignace. Their writers were interested in getting help understanding the changes, especially in their coverage areas.

Above, Tierney is at left with St. Ignace news Publisher Wes Maurer Jr., Muskegon-based Freelance Outdoor Writer Bob Kingsley in the audience at right.

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Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority  

**CORA Board, Officers and Committee officers**  

Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC or Bay Mills)  

Jeff Parker, Tribal Chairman, CORA interim 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 Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (LTBB)  

Jerry Chingwa, Tribal Chairman, GLRC* interim chairman  

George Anthony, Natural Resource Commission Chairman  

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Sault Tribe or SSMTC)  

Bernard Bouschor, Tribal Chairman; Alternate: Fred Paquin, Tribal Unit 3 Director, Chief of Police  

Vic Matson Sr., Conservation Committee Chairman, GLRC interim vice chairman  

*Great Lakes Resource Committee,” which serves as the inter-tribal management body for the treaty fishery in 1836 treaty waters.

**CORA staff**  

Faith McGruther, executive director  

Jane Teneyck, assistant executive director  

Bucko Teeple, resource developer  

Bev Aikens, executive secretary  

Deanna Bowen, secretary  

Biological Services Division staff  

Tom Gorenflo, director  

Mike Ripley, environmental coordinator  

Mark Ebener, assessment biologist  

Karen Wright, fisheries technician  

Richard Reining, fisheries technician  

Greg Wright, fisheries enhancement coordinator  

Joel Cameron, assistant fisheries enhancement coordinator  

Mary Menominee, executive secretary

CORA MEETING BRIEFS ...

Jan. 25  

**CORA Board meets**  

SAULT STE. MARIE — CORA met Jan. 25 at the Big Abe CORA Building in Sault Ste. Marie. Gerry Chingwa and Jerry McClain were absent. Fred Paquin sat in for Bernard Bouschor. CORA officers were elected: Jeff Parker was elected chairman, and Bob Guendhardt was elected vice chairman.

In Conservation Committee reports, Vic Matson Sr. reported discussing the area was inter-tribal. Mattson said he does not have issues to bring to the table at the same time. Mattson called a meeting with Forest Manager Clyde Thompson went well. The Narrows site development will cost 1.3 million, according to the Corin Committee’s plan. Thompson seemed willing to help find money. Teeple is also working on the Dutcher/McKay Bay access site. When the land went into trust, he said, some things were overlooked. The dock is out on the neighboring property’s riparian rights. He is working with the DEQ and the Corps on a bottom-lands survey to get a lease and improvements. The lease is free as long as the dock is used for commercial purposes only, he added. Paquin reported on the Law Enforcement Committee named by the 2000 Consent Decree. It’s supposed to meet quarterly, but since it’s in start up mode, it’s met once with more meetings planned for February and March. The committee has to approve a citizen’s committee representative (also required by the Decree). Each representative will come back with names. A manpower issue the committee is working on is making sure emergency response is worked on, he said. The committee is also developing forms to document actions.

Board members discussed the ILWRC committee. They decided that a plan is needed first, and meet next week in the Grand Traverse Band area.

Jane Teneyck reviewed the budget, then discussed honorariums. The group decided that all but non-tribal employees would forgo honorariums. They passed the move by resolution. The board passed a litigation support request for inland litigation to the BIA. Next, attorneys will develop a budget and get it approved by each tribe.

Feb. 22  

**GLRC meets**  

SAULT STE. MARIE — The Great Lakes Resource Committee (GLRC), which serves as CORA’s inter-tribal management body for the treaty fishery in 1836 treaty waters, met Feb. 22 in Sault Ste. Marie. The committee, specified under the CHART, is composed of the tribe’s chairmen and natural resource entity chairman. Present was Jeff Parker, Tim Kinney, Gerald Chingwa, John Koon, Bernard Bouschor’s alternate, Fred Paquin, was excused.

Interim GLRC Committee Chairman Gerald Chingwa called the meeting to order. First on the agenda was the election of officers. Chingwa and interim Vice Chairman Vic Matson were voted in as chairman and vice chairman.

Looking over the agenda, which included CORA meeting items, Parker commented that the committee’s function is management and development, not administration. Attorney Kathryn Tierney explained that the CHART set up two committees — GLRC and the Inland Lands and Waters Resources Committee (ILWRC) — with CORA as the overarching body.

GLRC periodically reviews biological information. For example, harvest guidelines on whitefish would be reviewed to determine if an effort reduction is needed, or whether the tribal management plan would be reviewed to determine if it needs to be revised, updated or amended, based on biological data. explained Tierney.

In Conservation Committee reports, Vic Matson Sr. said his committee wants to set up meetings with other conservation committees to discuss US Coast Guard (USCG) safety equipment regulations. He noticed a memo in his packet asking for a March CORA-USCG meeting on the matter, so it would be better to meet with the USCG first to see what needs he is most concerned about small boat needs. They decided the best meeting date is March 15.

Anthony reported that Little Traverse needed $10,000 to equip two boats. Anthony reported that Little Traverse is exploring permits for perch fishing. Biologists are working on it.

Little Traverse went yesterday to a Minnesota meeting on Fox River dam assessment. Pollutants (PCBs) that were dumped [mostly by paper mills] have affected fish in Bay de Noc and a large portion of the Upper Peninsula north shore, Anthony reported.

Mike Schneider reported a Little River tribally member is interested in fishing. The others said they would see what they could do to help the new fisherman.

Anthony asked if Little River would pick out one of three gig net tugs available, since LRB has first pick. Schneider said he thought the thought that Little River is going to pass on those boats, so Little Traverse can have its pick.

Chingwa said that harvesting logs from bottomlands is still an issue in his area, and it’s also an issue in other local bays, as well as Minnesota where property owners are protesting it. The environmental concern is the disruption of spawning areas, or disturbing contaminants in sediments, he added. McGruther said she sent a letter to get involved, but has so far received no response.

Resource Developer Bucko Teeple said he is working on the Dutcher project to get a DEQ permit. The property owner has withdrawn objections to the permit, he said, which is what the DEQ needed.

Teeple reported working with the US Forest Service to develop on a summer “earth camp” for youth. About 29 kids and 16 chaperons could be housed at the Sault Tribe Culture Camp on Sugar Island. The purpose is to try to inspire the tribal youth and urban African American youth who attend to become interested in natural resources. The cost of the camp is $35,000 and they have so far identified $8,000.

Biological Services Director (BSD) Tom Gorenflo presented the draft letter to the Secretary of the Interior he was asked to draft at the last CORA meeting. The letter supports the USFWS request to increase hatchery capability, require DOI to retrofit USFWS stocking vessel and to support three USFWS FROs on the Great Lakes.

The GLRC decided to hold off on the letter.

McGruther said NOAA’s Ellen Brody, who worked with the tribe’s on Thunder Bay Sanctuary regulations, is requesting an ex officio CORA representative on the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council.

McGruther was appointed. GLRC decided to meet monthly for See “GLRC,” Page 4
DNR forms workgroup to review state oil and gas leasing procedures

LANING—The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will establish a special workgroup of environmental, industry and other public interest leaders to review existing state oil and gas leasing procedures, including those associated with Great Lakes bottomlands leasing. Director K. L. Cool announced on March 6.

The workgroup, chaired by DNR Land and Mineral Services Chief Mindy Koch, will provide recommendations to the leasing program to the Natural Resources Commission where additional public input will be received.

Specifically, the workgroup will focus on three areas:

• The Public Notice Process. Prior to the issuance of any state oil and gas lease, there is a requirement for public notice that provides the public adequate opportunity to review and comment. The workgroup will discuss how to best ensure the public (individual citizens and local units of government) to review and comment.

• The Collection of Lease Rentals. Currently, lease rentals are collected on a yearly basis in advance of the anniversary date of the lease. The lease provides for automatic forfeiture of the lease if rental payments are not paid on time, and there are no provisions in the lease that provide for the collection of late rentals. The DNR proposes that lease rentals for the entire primary term of all leases issued be collected in advance.

• Leasing of Inland Lake and Stream Bottomlands. The DNR proposes to modify the oil and gas leasing procedures to address concerns raised in the Michigan Environmental Science Board (MESB) report and to resume a Great Lakes bottomland-lease program.

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Apply for NAFWS Summer Youth Practicum by April 13

The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society will hold its Eleventh Annual National Native American Environmental Awareness Summer Youth Practicum on July 21 through 31 in Evergreen, Colo. The practicum is designed to provide Native American students with an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the management of natural resources, according to a NAFWS press release.

One of the goals of the society is to encourage Native American youth to pursue careers in the natural resource fields. The society believes in a reawakening of the traditional values of Indian-to-environmental relationships that are needed for tribes to make effective and sound natural resource management decisions.

The program provides an academic experience in a mountain youth camp that stressed the press release. During the program, students will spend their time at the Mt. Evans Outdoor Education Lab School of the Jefferson County School District participating in classroom sessions, field education, recreational activities, field trips, traditional methods, and, most important, interaction with professional, cultural, and spiritual people. A unique aspect of the program is the use of Native American professionals who are active in the field and, even more important, the invaluable teachings from Tribal Elders.

The Youth Practicum is open to incoming tenth to twelfth grade Native students who are interested in the preservation, protection, and enhancement of natural resources. Students must be in good physical condition as physical activities are a part of the Practicum.

For more information or an application, write or call: Sally Carufel-Williams, Youth Practicum Coordinator Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, 750 Burbank St., Bloomfield, CO 80020. Phone: 303-466-1725. Fax: 303-466-5414.

Completed applications must be postmarked and mailed by April 13. Only completed applications will be considered.

To download a copy of an application for students to apply and go to: http://www.nafws.org/syp.shtml

Chaperone/Counselor Job Positions —

NAFWS is hiring qualified individuals to serve as chaperones/counselors to work at the practicum for two weeks with the students. Please view our detailed description of preferred qualifications by downloading the application from http://www.nafws.org/syp.shtml.

Deadline for these positions is April 13, 2001.

Reward offer increased in Eastern U.P. wolf case

LANING—The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Defenders of Wildlife and the Timber Wolf Alliance, is offering a $3,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the illegal killing of a gray wolf in the eastern Upper Peninsula last summer.

“The DNR appreciates the financial assistance of the Defenders of Wildlife in pledging $2,000 to help us solve this crime,” said Richard Ashler, Chief of the Law Enforcement Division. “We are committed to protect all natural resources in Michigan, and the illegal taking of gray wolves could have a serious impact on our efforts to achieve a self-sustaining population in the Upper Peninsula.”

In September 2000, the remains of a badly decomposed wolf were discovered in a ditch along Steuben Road, near Town Line Road, in Chippewa County. The location is between Pickford and Rudyard. DNR law enforcement officials estimated the incident occurred in early August.

Information recently obtained by DNR investigators leads them to believe there may have been two wolves involved in this incident, and that one of the animals may have been removed from the scene.

The DNR Wildlife Resources Protection Unit also is continuing its investigation of the killing of an adult male gray wolf that occurred in the Seney National Wildlife Refuge last December. A similar reward is being offered in that case. “Defenders of Wildlife is working with local law enforcement to put a stop to these illegal wolf killings,” said Roger Schlickeisen, president of Defenders of Wildlife. “Everywhere that wolves have returned to the lower 48 states, either through natural recovery or reintroduction, they have stood as a positive testament to the health of the ecosystem. Illegal wolf killings like these can cripple the work of wildlife professionals in the state.”

The grey wolf is a protected species in Michigan. A person convicted of killing a wolf can face up to 90 days in jail, $1,000 in fines and $1,500 restitution.

Any information related to either investigation can be reported to the DNR Report All Poaching hotline at 800-292-7809, or to Detective Michael Johnson, DNR, Crystal Falls, at 906-875-6622. All calls will remain confidential.
After six years of work, a restoration and compensation determination plan for the Fox River in Green Bay area was released October 2000. For years, the area has been contaminated mostly by PCBs released by paper mills. A number of federal, state, and tribal agencies have joined efforts to address the damage through a number of regulatory avenues including: Superfund, the Natural Resource Damage Assessment, and State of Wisconsin spill authorities. As a co-trustee, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians is participating in the effort. Other co-trustees for the project are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Justice, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Michigan Attorney General.

Lower Fox River restoration plan under way

The Fox River/Green Bay area supports many plant, fish, and wildlife species, including both commercial and recreational fishing stocks. Commercial fish species in Green Bay and Lake Michigan historically have included alewife, burbot, carp, chubs, northern pike, perch, smelt, walleye, and whitefish. Natural resources involved in the assessment include surface water, sediments, and biological resources, including aquatic biota and wildlife. Specifically, trust resources in the assessment area include threatened species and migratory birds such as the bald eagle, Forster’s tern, common tern, mallard, double-crested cormorant, black-crowned night-heron, tree swallow, red-breasted merganser, herring gull, and red-winged blackbird. Fish species such as coho salmon, chinook salmon, pink salmon, rainbow trout, and rainbow smelt; National Wildlife Refuge lands; nationally significant interjurisdictional fish stocks in the Great Lakes such as lake trout, yellow perch, lake sturgeon, walleye, forage fish, and Atlantic salmon; piscivorous mammals such as otter and mink; and lake trout in Lake Michigan that were stocked from federal hatcheries.

On Feb. 22, the AP reported that an insurance company does not want to cover a paper company for any costs associated with cleaning up pollution in the Fox River. Fort Howard had liability insurance with the Baltimore-based company from 1975 through 1994, the lawsuit said.

“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.

GLRC MEETS – From “GLRC,” Page 2 now, and discussed what sort of agenda should be set up for meetings. Reports from the biologist, law enforcement, and conservation committee reports were decided.

A Bay Mills tribal fisher was present to ask the fisher to start the process earlier, like three years instead of five years, so that the DNR would have more time to address the issue.

He then asked if he had the right to dock at a government dock, and they said it depends on which facility. He wants to use the Grand Island landing. Teeple said he will look into it; it’s a USPS landing. Teeple will let the fisher know what Forest Manager Clyde Thompson says about the landing.

Then he wanted to know why every year he has to get a permit for deepwater lake trout (for November). Tom said a permit is needed to use a gill net in a closed season. He advised the fisher to start the process earlier, like August and September, so if he needs it, he’ll have it. He doesn’t have to use it. Carrey reported that the Law Enforcement Committee met last week, at work setting up the Citizens Advisory group. He needs a recommendation for a non fisher appointment.

Diesel fuel leaks into Fox River

Waukesha, Wis. (AP) — About 15,000 gallons of diesel fuel leaked from a storage tank Feb. 26 into the Fox River, authorities said.

An employee at Hopson Oil discovered a bulk storage tank was leaking when he arrived at work about 5:30 a.m. Feb. 26, Waukesha Deputy Fire Chief Steve Howard said.

Firefighters, using manhole covers and other devices, stemmed the leak in about 15 minutes, according to the EPA, the Lower Fox River clean-up and restoration project involves the remediation of sediments contaminated with PCBs and the restoration of natural resources damaged by these contaminants.

In selecting their preferred restoration alternative, co-trustees rejected the no-action/natural recovery alternative. Under this alternative, no further actions would be undertaken to restore natural resources. Co-trustees also rejected a PCB removal alternative because PCB removal is currently being evaluated by EPA and WDNR.

Instead, co-trustees preferred restoration alternative focuses on resource-based restoration to improve the environmental health of the Lower Fox River and Green Bay Environment and compensate for losses resulting from PCB injures. The co-trustees’ restoration plan will involve a mix of actions designed to provide ecological and social benefits. A central element of the co-trustees’ approach is ensuring that the restoration addresses the full geographic and ecological scope of the injuries to natural resources. The Lower Fox, located in northeastern Wisconsin, begins at the Menasha and Neenah channels leading from Lake Winnebago and flows north for 39 miles where it discharges into Green Bay, Lake Michigan. Approximately 270,000 people reside in the communities along the river. The river has 12 dams and includes the highest concentration of pulp and paper mills in the world.

As a result of the recycling of PCB-containing carbonless copy paper, area mill operations discharged PCBs in waste streams, contaminating sediments in the Lower Fox River. The Lower Fox River is the largest source of PCBs to Lake Michigan in the basin. Between 1957 and 1971, according to the EPA, 250,000 pounds of PCBs were released, contaminating 11 million tons of sediment. It is estimated that some 160,000 pounds of PCBs have already left the Fox River and entered Green Bay and Lake Michigan, and an average of 600 additional pounds are flushed from the Lower Fox sediments each year. Floods would flush additional thousands of pounds into the bay.

PCBs do not degrade naturally but instead concentrate in the environment and the food chain resulting in health hazards to humans, fish and wildlife. The quantity and concentration of the released substances are sufficient to potentially cause injury to those natural resources. Natural resources likely to have been adversely affected by releases of hazardous substances include endangered species, migratory birds, surface water, sediments, plankton, benthic macroinvertebrates, fish, and wildlife. Once PCBs are released into Green Bay and Lake Michigan, they are and extremely difficult, if not impossible, to recover. The Fox River/Green Bay area supports many plant, fish, and wildlife species, including both commercial and recreational fishing stocks. Commercial fish species in Green Bay and Lake Michigan historically have included alewife, burbot, carp, chubs, northern pike, perch, smelt, walleye, and whitefish. Natural resources involved in the assessment include surface water, sediments, and biological resources, including aquatic biota and wildlife. Specifically, trust resources in the assessment area include threatened species and migratory birds such as the bald eagle, Forster’s tern, common tern, mallard, double-crested cormorant, black-crowned night-heron, tree swallow, red-breasted merganser, herring gull, and red-winged blackbird. Fish species such as coho salmon, chinook salmon, pink salmon, rainbow trout, and rainbow smelt; National Wildlife Refuge lands; nationally significant interjurisdictional fish stocks in the Great Lakes such as lake trout, yellow perch, lake sturgeon, walleye, forage fish, and Atlantic salmon; piscivorous mammals such as otter and mink; and lake trout in Lake Michigan that were stocked from federal hatcheries.

The United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co., an insurer of the former Fort Howard Paper Co., filed a lawsuit Feb. 22 in federal court asking a judge to declare it does not have to defend the papermaker or pay any cleanup costs. Fort Howard had liability insurance with the Baltimore-based company from 1975 through 1994, the lawsuit said.

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