TRIBAL BIOLOGIST, TOM GORENFOLO, HONORED BY GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The Great Lakes Fishery Commission recently presented Tom Gorenflo of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority with the Jack Christie/Ken Loftus award for Outstanding Contributions to Healthy Ecosystems. The award, which is presented annually by commissioners to recognize a specific individual’s work, was presented by the commission’s executive secretary.

Gorenflo, who represents tribal interests throughout the negotiations, was honored for his strong commitment to the fisheries resources, his application of scientific principles, and his ability to help all sides forge an equitable agreement. Gorenflo shared this award with other negotiators.

In August 2000, five tribal governments, the State of Michigan, the U.S. Federal Government, and four stakeholders endorsed thefishery agreement after two years of dif-
ficult negotiations. At issue were allocation of the fishery among the users, rehabilitation of native species such as lake trout, and the application of joint management programs. The final agreement redistributed the fishing opportunities among the parties, including an enhanced commitment to native species restoration through stocking, harvest controls, and sea lamprey control; and fostered the conversion of gill nets to trap nets.

Gorenflo, director of the Intertribal Fisheries Assessment Program for the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, was co-recog-
nized for this award along with Dr. Kelley Smith (left) of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Mark Holey (right) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their contributions to the agreement.

The new tribal subsistence regulations have changed as a result of the year 2000 fishing negotiations. All tribal subsis-
tence fishers using nets, spears, bow and arrow gear must obtain a tribal subsistence fishing card and report all subsistence harvest.

In the past, only tribal mem-
bers who used nets for subsis-
tence purposes were required to obtain a subsistence fishing card and report their harvest to tribal authorities. Now, a tribal member must know the difference between recreational and subsis-
tence fishing. A member is subsis-
tence fishing if:
• Fishing with more than two rods or tip-ups (state law),
• Using gears not permitted by the Michigan, and
• Harvesting more fish than state law allows.

The new tribal subsistence regu-
lations were negotiated with the inland hunting and fishing car-
ties last year during the contro-
versial year 2000 fishing negotia-
tions. For allocation purposes, the 1836 fishery was divided between recreational and subsis-
tence resources. Fishing with more than two traps or set lines is prohibited.

The tribal subsistence regulations are enforced by the State of Michigan, or the tribal authorities. Now, a tribal member may fish in the 1836 treaty-ceded territory.

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CORA MEETINGS BRIEFS

GLRC July 19

CORA’s Great Lakes Resource Committee met July 19 at Little Traverse Bay Band in Manistee. Tim Kinney, BMIC, and Bernard Bouschor, Sault Tribe, were both absent. Fred Paquin sat in for Bouschor.

REPORTS – CONSERVATION COMMITTEES

Chairmen of CORA tribes natural resource entities reported their matters were internal. George Anthony, LTBB, also reported completing a lamprey control program, reviewing law enforcement procedures and continuing work with natural resources damage assessment in Green Bay.

BIOLOGISTS

Tom Gorenflo, ITFAP director, discussed a negative article in The Detroit News based on a study of the University of Illinois. The News reported that eating certain fish causes memory loss when the abstract of the study didn’t seem to draw such a strong conclusion.

Environmental Coordinator Mike Ripley responded with a letter to the Detroit News and The Evening News, a Sault, Mich., newspaper that ran the story.

Anthony asked if the state couldn’t issue some kind of statement rebutting that article. Gorenflo said he hopes to obtain that kind of support. He has requested a copy of the full study and will later make a more formal response.

Archie Martell, LRBI biologist, reported conducting assessments, work on perch north of Manistee, Lake Michigan Technical Committee attendance, and whitefish spring assessments.

Ken Gebhardt, BMCC biologist, reported a May and June lake trout assessment in Whitefish Bay for five weeks at six sites, a whitefish assessment near Rockport and Alpena, and harvest monitoring for gill net and trap net in Lake Superior and Lake Huron. He is currently conducting an annual walleye assessment.

Tina Frankenberg, GTB biologist, reported spring walleye planning, stocking Northport Bay, completing a stocking plan for walleye, which all but the state have approved. Commercial sampling is in progress, she added.

(This is the first time Frankenberg has reported to GLRC. She is a GTB member who graduated with a B.S. from Michigan State University. She has been working for GTB Natural Resources since May 1999.)

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTS

Fred Paquin, Sault Tribe, reported on the Joint Law Enforcement meeting (Law Enforcement Committee Chairman Officer Al Colby, LTBB, arrived late and added a few comments at the following CORA meeting).

Paquin reported there have been complaints on the net marking in trap net zones. The nets are marked properly, so he doesn’t understand why sport fishers are tangleing in them.

Half the sport fishers see set nets and are trying to catch fish, so that the tribes are blamed for what sport fishers are doing. For the other half, putting up staffs should take care of the rest.

He reported that a joint patrol had to pull 40 nets was said that it project be a bad thing to tag nets for identification purposes. This may be a proposal that could come back to the board. Another reason to tag is to make fishers responsible if nets need to be pulled, so one they had to pull could – n’t be identified.

Anthony asked who pulls in what area if there is no identification. Paquin said they are discussing it, looking at a home base to pull nets for enforcement (who have small boats).

McGruther said that the USCG is taking out a TV station’s camera to look at nets. She suggested making the shoot a joint effort, and suggested Gorenflo or Gebhardt go along. Attorney Candy Tierney suggested law enforcement would be able to get out there.

Paquin added that CORA has a good relationship with the USCG in the Sault and St. Ignace, and could develop one in the Algoma area.

A LRBI representative said that joint patrols are going well.

Frankenberg said that in GTB’s area, sport fishers are too close to fish. The artists when they are being lifted. They are working with the USCG on a marker that will take care of liability. The old convention was to hang out an old bushel basket. Sport fishers won’t acknowledge the working fishing boats.

Paquin asked if any tribal fishers complained. Frankenberg didn’t know. Paquin informed her to have complaints directed to the Law Enforcement Committee.

Attorney Bill Rastetter said an educational campaign is needed.

CORA Public Information Officer Jennifer Dale said a release with trap net graphic and map was sent out in the Lake Huron area and the same could be done for Lake Michigan. She had sent out a release with text, map and trap net graphic.

DEVELOPMENT

Resource Developer Dwight “Bucko” Teeple said that the Sault Tribe Conservation committee had asked about McKay Bay and Pendills. He is working on getting a Pendills access site into the forestry plan. He received permits for McKay Bay development from DEQ and the Corps of Engineers. Bids came at $188,782 from MCM Marina, and $235,644 from Steel and Sons, but only 153,000 was approved for the project. Vic Matson Sr., Sault Tribe, suggested scaling back the project. Teeple said that most of the cost was in the steel piling, and having to redo the permits would take another year. No action was taken.

He also reported that the Protect the Earth Youth Camp is proceeding and is scheduled for Aug. 6-1; he referred DNR communications about access at Rockport and Hammond Bay to the appropriate tribal entities, and he is working to resubmit an ANA grant after obtaining technical assistance.

OTHER MATTERS

Gorenflo asked about procedures for a fisher getting a permit in another tribe’s zone. Everyone agreed it was a tribal concern, between the tribes involved. So, a fisher would go to his tribe and ask it to make the request to the other tribe, and inform CORA.

Gorenflo said his office was getting complaints on unattended or abandoned trap nets, but he can see from Paquin’s report that it is already being worked on. He suggested a definition of an abandoned net should be developed. Paquin said the biologist should be invited to the next meeting.

He also added that nets sometime seem unattended but are not. He said an abandoned net is a net in which the buoys are cut and there is no tag.

Rastetter requested a reminder notice go out to law enforcement on net markings. Jeff Parker, BMIC, said law enforcement should do it. Paquin said they could.

CORA July 19

CORA met following the July 19 GLRC meeting with the same board members present.

Law Enforcement Committee Chairman Al Colby, Little Traverse Bay Band, arrived to supplement the report made by Fred Paquin at the preceding GLRC meeting, all reporting that “Advisory Board was yet to be completed, and that the committee recommends standardization in tribal courts.”

CORA reports, Public Information Officer Jennifer Dale asked the board to choose a new logo from a field of excellent entries. The board chose a logo featuring an eagle and “CORA” as a logo, the artist submitted the original in pencil. He wins $400. All the submissions will be available for viewing at www.cotfma.org. Now that the CORA logo has been selected, the new website and letterhead can be designed.

Next, Dale reported for approval of 2001 salmon net safety campaign materials. Paquin asked that the poster be modified and he suggested that CORA Chairman Jeff Parker directed Dale to finalize the poster and fax it to all the board members for a 48-hour reply, then implement the campaign.

Dale reported a campaign to educate boaters and sport fishers about new tribal trap nets in Lake Huron, in conjunction with BMIC Biologist Ken Gebhardt. Materials were sent to local newspapers and radios, state fish licensing agents for display, and the USCG for broadcast on the recreational boaters channel. She will also conduct a campaign for Lake Michigan, as requested at the GLRC meeting.

CORA Executive Director Faith McGruther reported that Attorney Candy Tierney reviewed CORA personnel policies and procedures researched and drafted by CORA staff.

LRBI Chairman Bob Guenthardt brought up questions on tribes’ Gathering Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Forest Service. He asked whether the tribes or the tribes should obtain and issue Convention on International Treaties on Endangered Species (CITES) protected species such as bobcat, otter or badger.

LRBI made their own last year, and could develop one in the Algoma area. Guenthardt said that CORA obtain and distribute the tags as the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife (GLIFWC) has been doing.

Tierney said that CORA is not really into this aspect of natural resources yet.

Two committees were established for COA: Great Lakes Resource Committee (GLRC) and Inland Lands and Waters Resources Committee (ILWRC). The Inland committee has yet to be implemented, so it will be going through the committee until the committee is up and running.

Guenthardt said CORA could get the tags, and each tribe come up with its own formula for distribution.

A member of the LRBI staff asked if CORA would consider signing an Gathering MOU agreement with the Forest Service. He was referred to McGruther for further discussion.

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

CORA Board, Officers and Committee officers

Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC or Bay Mills)
Jeff Parker, tribal chairman, CORA chairman
Tim Kinney, Conservation Committee chairman

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB)
Robert Kewagyoshkun, tribal chairman
John Connannon, Natural Resource Committee chairman

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRB)
Bob Guenthardt, tribal chairman, CORA vice chairman
Bob Koon, Natural Resource Commission chairman

Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (LTBB)
Jerry Chingwa, tribal chairman, GLRC* chairperson
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
Vic Matson Sr., Conservation Committee Chairman, GLRC vice 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

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CORA staff

Faith McGruther, executive director
Jane Tenecek, assistant executive director
Dwight “Bucko” Teeple, resource developer
Bev Aikens, executive secretary
Deanna Bowen, secretary

July 2001
CORA logo contest decided; Witkop wins

The CORA logo contest has been decided! The winner is James Witkop. His pencil rendering of an eagle making a fish strike in the forefront and an eagle soaring in the background was chosen as best representing the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority. Witkop wins a prize in the amount of $400.

The new logo will be used in CORA publications and on its letterhead.

Witkop made several entries to the contest. His outdoor themes represent freedom and survival, he said. What's special about the two eagles in his winning entry is that he knows them. This logo depicts two eagles that live in his neighborhood.

Witkop, 38, is a self-taught artist who has been drawing since the age of 16. He enjoys creating Native art, and also airbrushing and painting. Two of his specialties are clocks decorated with a Native themes, and dreamcatchers. Witkop creates the occasional graphic for Frontier, the Little River Band newsletter, pro bono for his tribe.

All the logo entries were wonderful, and it was a very difficult choice, made by the CORA board on July 19, 2001, in Manistee at its quarterly meeting.

Entries were made by Dan Brown, CE, David Teeple, Sara Teeple, Keith Hanson, Tammy Bowerman, and Lyle James. The entries are shown below in gray; see www.cotfma.org to see them in color.

Thanks to all who entered. The entries will be posted on the website, www.cotfma.org, as CORA prepares its new website with design based on the new logo, www.1836CORA.org.

Anyone who is interested in these artists would contact the CORA Public Information Office, which will let the artists know of your interest.

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**Vessels be aware of permitted tribal trap nets**

**July 5, 2001 — Boaters should use caution navigating in northern Lake Huron. 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 Native American tribes, new tribal trap net zones were established in northern Lake Huron. Four tribal trap net operations, two each by Bay Mills Indian Community and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, are permitted to fish in the northern Lake Huron and Lake Michigan area.**

**Boaters should exercise extreme caution when navigating in these areas during salmon season.**

**Vessel operators should navigate away from all staff buoys or jugs marking the nets. Unmarked or improperly marked nets should be reported to state and tribal law enforcement officials or the Department of Natural Resources (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 in the commercial fishery is not only a crime, but increases vessel navigational concerns for other boaters.**

**Trip nets are required to be marked by the permitted fishers. Each trip 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 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 comply until 2002, most fishers in Southern Lake Huron Trap Net Zone have already instituted them.**

**At the July 19 CORA meet-**

**FOO directory comments:**

**Report on dubious study inflammatory**

Ed. Note: CORA Environmental Coordinator Mike Ripley wrote the following letter to The Evening News on June 13. The letter was a response to an article in The Evening News that was picked up from The Detroit News, written by Jeremy Pearce. Pearce's column reported that consumers found that consuming Lake Michigan fish caused memory loss. The conclusion was too strong, Ripley found. He makes his point below.

**Fishers should also note that subjects of the study were all over 50; in their early lives they may have been consuming fish with many, many times the contami- nate levels than are found in today's fish, which makes the study useless in some researcher's eyes.**

**Additional subjective reports of the mental acuity of lifelong fish eaters were picked up from the findings of these sorts of studies based on subjective psychological tests.**

**Study: Fish consumption may pose danger.** It is my opinion that the article contains seriously misleading information that needs to be corrected.

**The agency that I work for, the Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program (ITFAP), represents the Great Lakes fishery interests of five Native American tribes in northern Michigan and the U.P. For the past 10 years we have been testing the commercial lake trout and whitefish catches of tribal fishers in the northern Great Lakes for the presence of contaminants. In the same article regarding the article appeared in The Detroit News, is that the author has taken the conclusions of a single, questionable study and further distorted the results. In turn, other media such as radio have been reporting sound bites based on the Detroit News article that state “Great Lakes fish cause memory loss.” This is an erroneous and emphatically false in the article.**

**The abstract of the study, published in the publication Environmental Health Perspectives, states, “In conclusion, PCB exposure during adulthood was associated (my underline) with impairments in memory and learning, whereas executive and visual-spatial function were unaffected.” From this weak association, the press and the researchers themselves have jumped to the erroneous conclusion that consuming Great Lakes fish cause memory loss. This is the same association being portrayed by the psycholo- gist who conducted the tests about how “subtle” and “hard to track” the effects of PCBs have been. Millions of dollars have been spent attempting to find any association with Great Lakes fish, contami- nants, and human health effects. In many, many studies have found no associations at all.**

**This is for the same reason why the article contains seriously misleading information that needs to be corrected.**

**Notice to Boaters:**

**July 6, 2001 — At the beginning of August through the end of October, boaters in northern Lake Michigan and Lake Huron should be aware of the possible presence of tribal commercial fishing gear in the Great Lakes. It is a fed- eral 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 fishery not being able to locate the net and hence, the fish.**

**Tribal Fishing** is published by the Gippeppa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) Public Information program. The program is administered by the Bay Mills Indian Community Newspaper Department.

For 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 906-672-0343 or info@cotfma.org.

Permission must be obtained to reprint any matter in this newsletter. Submissions and letters welcome at the above address. Please use your full name & address.

**For more information contact CORA Executive Director Faith McGruther at 906-672-0343 or www.cotfma.org.**