New Little River Ogema joins CORA Board

By Mike Ripley, CORA Environmental Program

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich.- Results from testing of Lake Superior whitefish and lake trout show the lowest levels in the past decade. The fish tested were collected from commercial catches in the Whitefish Bay area and analyzed at an independent laboratory.

The fish are tested as part of a long term fish contaminant monitoring program conducted by the Inter-Tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program (ITFAP) in order to determine contaminant levels in commercially caught fish. The results of these tests are then compared to levels of contaminants determined to be safe by various government agencies.

ITFAP began testing commercially harvested fish in 1991 and this past year’s results are the lowest levels seen in the 10 years since the program began. Lake Superior fish were tested for a wide range of contaminants including mercury, PCBs, Dioxins and pesticides such as DDT. All fish were well below the guidelines for commercial fish issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and below the Michigan Department of Public Health’s guidelines for consumption of sport fish by the general public. The State also issues special guidelines for consumption by pregnant women, women of childbearing age and children. Even under these special, more restrictive guidelines, these test results indicate that pregnant women can eat as much Lake Superior Whitefish as they want provided that it is prepared with the skin and visible fat removed.

The Lake Superior fish tested were remarkably low in mercury especially when compared to levels of mercury found in tuna and swordfish. Levels of pesticides, such as DDT which was banned in the United States in the 1970s, are also remarkably low in fish tested. Contaminant levels in fish from all of the Great Lakes have declined dramatically since the 1970s when regulations were put in place to reduce pollution. These results should be encouraging for many people who enjoy eating Great Lakes fish especially since studies show that most Americans eat a diet high in saturated animal fats. Studies show that Americans could dramatically reduce their risk of heart attack and stroke by switching to a more lean protein source such as properly prepared fish. Other studies also show that a different type of fat, omega-3 fatty acids, may actually reduce the risk of cancer. Great Lakes fish are especially high in omega 3 fatty acids in comparison to other foods. For more information, contact Mike Ripley at (906) 632-0072.

Testing of Lake Superior Fish Show Lowest Levels of Contaminants in Past Decade

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New Little River Ogema joins CORA Board

The Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority has a new member — former Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRB) Ogema and CORA Chairman Bob Guendhardt decided not to run again. Winner of the recent LRB election was Johnny Sams, who officially joined the CORA Board at its May 30 meeting.

Pictured (L-R) are Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) Natural Resource Commission Chairman John Cancannon, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Unit 3 Director and Chief of Police Fred Paquin, Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) Chairman and newly elected CORA Chairman L. John Lufkins, GTB Chairman Bob Keyagosbhum, BMIC Conservation Committee Chairman Dave Menominee, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) Chairman Jerry Chingwa, LRB Ogema Johnny Sams, Sault Tribe Conservation Committee Chairman and CORA’s Great Lakes Natural Resource Committee Chairman Vic Matson Sr., and LTBB Natural Resource Commission Chairman George Anthony.

River Watch

On May 13, the U.S. Coast Guard in Sault Ste. Marie officially unveiled the River Watch program, designed to support homeland security. The program seeks to enlist the aid of citizen mariners to assist law enforcement agencies in keeping with a vigilant watch over the nation’s waterways and ports, and the U.S. Canadian border.

River Watch is modeled after the Neighborhood Watch program. Local members of the boating public are most familiar with their waterways, knowing what constitutes normal activities on the water, and they are quick to identify activities that may not be normal.

The Coast Guard is distributing the River Watch program to mariners, recreational boaters, sport fishing organizations, and the towing vessel industry, as well as cargo and passenger vessel fleets.
owners can take it back if it doesn’t meet the ramp study. The ramp would be used by the GLRC tribe and Bay Mills held a joint conservation committee also worked on the ice pole project. They are looking for a naval architect comfortable working with aluminum to work on a 28-foot vessel. They also have their own boats and are working on a fishing area to get ready for the field season. They have no vessel right now but are getting one soon. He is also working with the modeling subcommittee on whitefish sampling protocol. More effort is required, the committee has to figure out how to cover all the necessities. Last year Bay Mills made a lake sturgeon assessment proposal that has just been funded; they want to hire two students to assess the Upper St. Marys. Resource Developer Bucko Teeple reported that the building at McKay Bay is down. The Great Lakes Fishery Trust is getting ready to sign an agreement for the repair and improvement of McKay Bay. One of the major concerns in hand, the contractor can make purchases. Matson said that at Whitefish Point there are pipes bent so that the boats can’t tie up. He reported that a private property owner is interested in signing over his property if CORA will dredge it. Teeple said he would go have a look at Whitefish Point and talk to the interested property owner.

CORA Board, Officers and Committee Officers

Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC or Bay Mills) L. John Lutfkins, tribal chairman, CORA vice chairman Dave Menominee, Conservation Committee chairman

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

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

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) Gerry Chingwa, tribal chairman, GLRC* vice chairman George Anthony, Natural Resource Commission chairman

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Sault Tribe or SSMTCI) Bernard Bouchier, tribal chairman; Alternate: Fred Paquin. Tribal Unit 3 director, Chief of Police, Law Enforcement Committee

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe Conservation Committee (LTBB) — Anthony reported that township officials requested funding for a launch ramp study. The ramp would be used by everyone. The land was donated but former owners can take it back if it doesn’t meet harbor refuge requirements. It’s the only Sturgeon Bay access, Anthony said. LRB—Koon reported that a commercial fishing program was down. They looked at concerns on Bay Harbor and concerns on the conversion. BMIC—Menominee reported Bay Mills is still looking for a fishery biologist. They haven’t over harvested, they’ve been careful. They are looking at a gill net fishery that’s been shut down. They haven’t over harvested, they’ve been careful. The new tribes will get base funding but he’s had trouble getting funding from the State. LTRB—Randy Claramunt reported field sampling protocol. More effort is required; they want to hire two students to assess the Upper St. Marys.

CORA met April 15 at the Turtle Creek Annex Building in Williamsville following the GLRC meeting. The meeting was chaired by LRB Chairwoman Ellie. Guendhardt. Also in attendance were L. John Lutfkins and Dave Menominee for Bay Mills, Bob Keyagoskim and John Concannon for Grand Traverse Band, Bob Guendhardt and Gerry Chingwa and George Anthony for Little Traverse Bay Bands and Fred Paquin and Vic Matson Sr. for Sault Tribe. The meeting was attended by Michael McKay, Tribal Labor Liaison, James Vince, Board of Directors, and George Anthony for Little Traverse Bay Bands and Fred Paquin and Vic Matson Sr. for Sault Tribe.

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By John Fleisher and Associate Writer 

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) —

Disrupting the sea lamprey’s mating call may be the key to limiting its numbers in the Great Lakes, where the eel-like parasite has insidiously drained the life out of sport fish, scientists say.

Male lampreys secrete a smelly bile acid during spawning season that draws ovarulat- ing females to nests where they lay their eggs for males to fertilize, Michigan State University researchers said.

“The discovery might lead to better trapping and sterilization programs in the Great Lakes, where the lamprey is a pariah. But it also could help produce more lampreys in places where they are a delicacy — and it suggests that sex lures might be used to raise or reduce other fish populations,” Lavis said.

“This research will help us produce new and more effective techniques for sea lamprey control,” said Chris Goddard, executive secretary of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, a U.S.-Canadian agency that helped fund the study.

Sea lampreys, native to the Atlantic Ocean, is believed to have invaded the Great Lakes through shipping channels in the early 20th century.

The jawless critter clamps its powerful disklke mouth onto the sides of fish, diggs in with sharp teeth and sucks their body fluids. When satisfied, the lamprey releases its hapless host, which usually dies from the wound or a later infection.

Michigan DNR announces Lake Superior fishing changes

Lake trout in MI-6 have been changed. Beginning June 12, 2002, the following regulations apply:

Small mesh gill nets shall not be set in waters greater than 90 feet deep or less in grids 712, 713 or 714. New language is:

The words “or less” were deleted because any fishing activity under the Regulations is a criminal offense for any person to commit any of the following acts:...

June 2002
SAULT STE. MARIE — After three years of jumping through hoops, the Dutcher’s McKay Bay Access Site Improvement Project is finally underway. Funding by a Great Lakes Fishery trust grant, the project will provide safe harbor and a launch facility for Lake Huron fishers. The McKay Bay improvements take care of the number one access priority for Sault Tribe and number two priority for Bay Mills, according to Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority Resource Developer Dwight “Bucko” Teeple, who surveyed all the CORA tribes access needs and submitted the results to the grantor. The facility will be used for other fishery activities, like fishing assessments and lake trout enhancement activities.

“It’s been a long process, but it’s finally come through,” said Teeple, who became CORA’s resource developer in 1998. “It’s really good, finally getting something that will be visibly completed,” he added.

CORA recently received the first $28,535 installment of the $190,233 GLFT grant. The Authority will receive all but 10 percent after a contractor has been selected, and will be paid the remainder after CORA makes its final report. The project must be completed within 90 days.

Teeple would like to see if the CORA board and CORA Executive Director Jeff Parker would like to hold a dedication ceremony upon project completion.

“There were so many hoops to jump through to get to this point it’s unbelievable,” Teeple said, holding up a pile of paperwork. Before the project started, existing building were removed, but the dock is in bad shape, added Teeple. The construction plan calls for a new bulkhead with steel ties; dredging for a launch ramp and place ramp; and placing rock and gravel, a dock, mooring piles and a floating dock. Privies will also be placed at the site.

The property was purchased a few years ago by CORA with the intention of placing it into trust and using the dock as an access site. CORA placed the land into trust only to find out it did not own the dock. Quit claim deeds [from who] had to be obtained relinquishing riparian rights, said Teeple, who then began the whole process of securing permits from the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources (DEQ and DNR) as well as the Army Corp of Engineers, and securing a conveyance of bot-tomlands from Clark Township. To get the permits, neighbors’ objections had to be addressed, an engineering study and design for the dock had to be done, and a resolution of support from the Hudson Township had to be obtained.

That’s a lot hoops to jump through, and “all of them have their own story,” Teeple said. In other work, Teeple is assessing and working on access problems at Whitefish Point, Rockport, Hammond Bay, Cross Village and Pendills, he said. The resource developer submitted a grant application to the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) and is eying up a Saltonstall Kennedy marketing grant.

Teeple said the next big project is the number one priority site, Whitefish Bay. CORA has Whitefish Point access through a state permit, but the MDNR only allows eight boats to be moored there at any time, under “pretty stringent requirements,” said Teeple, who has proposed an additional Pendills Bay mooring facility. But, a Pendills project needs the approval of the U.S. Forest Service, which has concerns about interrupting the scenic highway along Lake Superior. Teeple said.

An alternative is a facility at the Big Pines campground, Teeple added. Regardless of where the site is located it’s going to be a major project like McKay Bay, with all of the problems associated with McKay Bay and maybe even harder, said Teeple.

**BOOKMARK OUR NEW WEBSITE!**

www.1836cora.org

“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. Please direct all inquiries to Jennifer Dale, 12140 W. Lakeshore Dr., Brimley, MI 49715, 906-248-2258, newspaper@bmic.net.

CORA Executive Director Jeff Parker may be reached at 906-632-0043 or cora@up.net. See www.1836cora.org for more information.

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