

TRIBAL FISHING

Volume 8 No. 4

July 2005

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL COLLABORATION PRESENTS RESTORATION STRATEGY



60-DAY COMMENT PERIOD FOR PUBLIC INPUT STARTS NOW

DULUTH, Minn. — In a July 7 special ceremony, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) presented for public comment a draft strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem. On the Executive Committee overseeing the process is Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Chairman Frank Ettawageshik, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator Benjamin Grumbles, Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle, Duluth Mayor Herb Bergson, and Superior, Wis., Mayor David Ross.

In December 2004, President Bush signed an executive order directing the EPA to lead a regional collaboration of national significance for the Great Lakes. The collaboration is a unique partnership of key members from tribal, federal, state, and local governments, and stakeholders for the purpose of developing a strategic plan to restore and protect the Lakes.

"Many Great Lakes Tribal Nations have been participating in the collaboration in recognition

of their sacred duties and responsibilities to the waters of the Great Lakes," said Ettawageshik. "We look forward to hearing from the public about how the final strategy can help to protect the Creator's gifts of pure water and sustainable ecosystems that provide the foundation for the health and welfare of all people in the Great Lakes basin."

"This is the summer of the Great Lakes — an unprecedented opportunity to

ensure that they are protected and restored for our children and grandchildren," said Doyle. "Most importantly, we recognize that immediate and aggressive action is needed. Hundreds have taken part in this collaboration and we invite the public to help us identify the steps that must be taken now and in coming years."

More than 1,500 people participated in the 6-month effort to draft the strategy. Teams worked on eight

critical environmental priorities including aquatic invasive species, habitat conservation and species management, near-shore waters and coastal areas, areas of concern, non-point sources, toxic pollutants, sound information base and representative indicators and sustainability. The reports of these teams form the basis for the draft action plan. They include recommendations for action and focus both on the long-term restoration of the Great Lakes

and on the steps that must be taken over the next five years to most effectively achieve results.

The draft strategy still must be endorsed by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration members. Following a 60-day public comment period, including five townhall-style meetings, the GLRC leadership will consider the draft recommendations and public comments as they develop a final strategy for approval by the collaboration membership.

The dates below have been set for public comment on the Strategy:

- July 28, Gary, Ind.
- Aug. 1, Grand Rapids
- Aug. 4, Superior, Wis.
- Aug. 18, Detroit
- Aug. 23, Cleveland, Ohio
- Aug. 30, Buffalo, NY

A public notice with an agenda and contacts is pending.

The final strategy is due to be released in Chicago in December 2005.



To read recommendations of the strategy teams and for more information about the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration go to <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/collaboration>.

To comment on the draft strategy, go to <http://www.glrc.us>.

Aquatic Invasive Species team makes huge strides
SEE PAGE 2 FOR STORY

New MSU Product Center program helps agriculture-natural resources based businesses get started

The MSU Product Center has developed a new program that can offer up to \$30,000 in business development services to entrepreneurs. The product center works to help existing or new eligible Michigan businesses.

“Phase I” services — working with an Innovation Counselor — are available to at no charge. Fees for additional phases vary, and may offset through grants.

Innovation Counselors use NxLevel™, a powerful business-planning tool, to strengthen their client’s business idea.

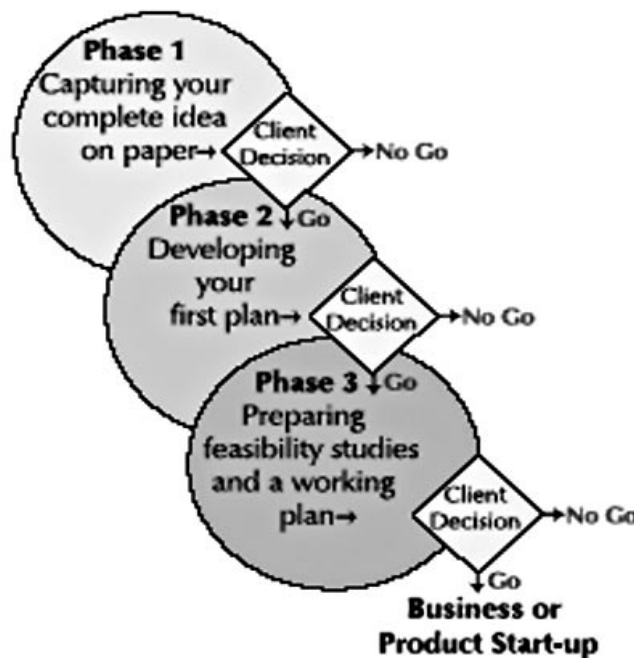
MSU taps into extensive networks and databases to access a wealth of market information. Using the advanced techniques of market testing systems, experts offer cutting edge approaches with real results.

Services are coordinated, linked, and easy to access with practical and timely recommendations for Michigan businesses. A business, a product, or a service in one of these broad areas qualifies for the Center’s programs:

- Livestock, dairy, fish supply, production, processing, and marketing;
- Food production, processing, marketing;
- Field or specialty crop supply, production, processing, marketing;
- Nursery, landscape and floriculture;

Bio-based industrial products or energy; Tourism and recreation; and Natural resources.

Call Client Services at 517-432-8750; e-mail: product@msu.edu. Visit the MSU Product Center website at www.aec.msu.edu/product/.



A three-phase process leads clients from an initial business concept to a start-up decision. An Innovation Counselor works with clients each step of the way. (From Brochure)



A COMMON INTEREST —

The one thing everyone on the MSU Whitefish Marketing Steering Committee has in common is an uncommon interest in Great Lakes lake whitefish. Committee Member Doug Craven (above L) listens to Tom Kalchik, MSU Product Center, talk about a new program that can spend up to \$30,000 in business development services. Those eligible include businesses in fish supply, processing and marketing.

Craven is the Little Traverse Bay Band’s natural resource director. Other committee members are a varied lot — they fish, own fish houses, work in fishery public information, adminstrate tribal natural resources programs, or work in academia.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TEAM SMACKS DOWN

The Aquatic Invasive Species Team of the Great Lakes Collaboration did not take the easy way out when it drafted its strategy, calling for forceful measures in the shipping industry and government. The actions are necessary, said the team, since the Great Lakes cannot afford “even one new invader.”

Inter Tribal Fisheries Assessment Director Tom Gorenflo, a member of the drafting team, was a leader in promoting this stern attitude toward aquatic invaders.

The following is abridged from the AIS executive summary. The report can be read in full at <http://www.epa.gov/grt-lakes/collaboration>.

Sadly, even after decades of high-profile invasions like the sea lamprey and zebra mussel, the rate of new introductions has not slowed. Our Great Lakes, which are the world’s greatest freshwater lakes, are succumbing to an irreversible “invasional meltdown” that may be more severe than chemical

pollution. AIS often make the Great Lakes home, they reproduce and spread, rendering eradication impossible. Existing measures to prevent the introduction of new species and to control species that are already established are woefully inadequate. The Great Lakes cannot afford even one new invader, and as invasions are irreversible, prevention is paramount.

At least 162 non-native, aquatic species are established in the Great Lakes, and an average of one new species is discovered every eight months. Not all of those species are invasive, but economic losses in the Great Lakes Basin from AIS were estimated in 2005 at \$5 billion per year. Moreover, 42 percent of threatened and endangered species in the U.S. are at risk, mainly because of invasive species, so AIS threaten native species and the ecology of the Great Lakes Basin.

The overall goals are to prevent all new introductions of AIS into the Great Lakes and to stop the

spread of AIS within the basin, to extirpate harmful AIS, or if impossible, then control to levels that ensure sustainable ecosystems and the social, economic and cultural uses they support.

The AIS Strategy Team offers the following five recommendations.

1) Ship-mediated introductions and spread of AIS in the Great Lakes should be eliminated, through the immediate promulgation of environmentally protective standards for ballast water, and the implementation of effective ship-board treatments and management measures.

2) Federal, state, or local governments should enact measures that ensure the region’s canals and waterways are not a vector for AIS, including full federal funding of the Chicago San-Ship Canal barrier and the sea lamprey control program.

3) Federal and state governments should take immediate steps to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS through the trade and

potential release of live organisms.

4) Establish a Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Integrated Management Program to implement rapid response, control, and management programs and assess the effectiveness of those programs.

5) Federal, state and

U.P. firefighters on standby

ESCANABA — Fire danger across the Central and Eastern Upper Peninsula remains very high. Visitors to the Hiawatha National Forest are urged to be extremely cautious with fire during their forest outings and camping trips. Fire Danger readings are at the extreme to very extreme indexes across the Forest and firefighters are on standby throughout the week and on weekends to be able to react to any needs that arise.

Fire detection flights are being flown over state- and federally-managed lands to detect any fires that may occur in more remote areas. Additional fire resources

tribal agencies, academic institutions and other organizations should receive adequate support to conduct and evaluate cost-effective AIS vector-specific outreach and education programs. These programs should focus on behavior change and responsibility of resource users.

and equipment have been made available should a wildfire occur.

Miller warned that traditional rock fire rings don’t provide enough containment under these conditions.

“The Forest is extremely dry,” Forest Fire Management Officer Mike Miller said. “You can feel and hear vegetation crunch under your feet as you walk through the woods ...”

Campers are urged to be careful, to build their campfires in approved steel fire rings or fire places, and to double check to make sure their fires are out.

“We need everyone’s help to keep our forests safe,” Miller said.



Environmental Justice grant pays for video on fish advisories for Anishnabe of the Great Lakes

SAULT STE. MARIE — Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority is cooperating with University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to produce a fish advisory video for Anishnabe audiences.

Under an Environmental Justice grant administered by Professor David Petering, CORA Public Information Officer Jennifer Dale acted as a liaison to help the UWM video crew get all the necessary footage to produce the video. The project was made possible by well-known Toxicologist John Dellinger, who works with CORA and Inter Tribal Council of Michigan Inc. on a ATDSR "Eat Fish But Choose Wisely" grant to produce regional fish advisories and public information to Upper Peninsula vulnerable populations.

Dellinger saw the possibilities when he knew of Petering's efforts to produce educational videos for indigenous peoples all over the globe. He brought the two groups together to make an Anishnabe version of the video.

The completed project will illustrate

the importance of fish and fishing to the Anishnabe community, and what the people can do to enjoy the health benefits that come from eating fish while protecting themselves from the risk of fish contaminants. For example, infants need the omega-3 fatty acids found in fish for their development, but they don't need mercury found in some fish, which can cause developmental problems.

CORA would like to thank at least three generations of the Wilcox Family, Traditional Teacher Bud Biron, Traditional Healer's Assistant Lisa Kerfoot, ITC Health Director Rick Haverkate, Julie Hopper and newborn Sydney Rose, Healthy Start Nurse Gina Lufkins, three generation of John Lufkins, John Dellinger and Matt Dellinger, for consenting to appear in the film; and ITC Consultant and Midwife Gera Simpkins. Before their departure, the two videographers were presented with representations of Great Lakes fish handcarved by Artist Mike Burton.



Photos by Jennifer Dale

Above, ITC Consultant and Midwife Gera Simpkins talks with UWM Video Crew Alison Rostankowski and Tess Gallun about results fish consumption focus groups she held last year. Women are often told to avoid Great Lakes fish when what they really need is good advice on how to eat fish safely in order to take out the risk and keep all the benefit. Below, Gallun prepares for a shoot at Wilcox Fish House and Restaurant in Bay Mills Township. The business illustrates Native American fishing for eating and commerce throughout the generations.



Great Lakes First Nations demand a seat at Annex 2001 discussions

NORTH BAY, Ontario — Last month, Ontario, Quebec and seven of the eight Great Lakes states reached an agreement to limit large-scale water diversions.

The various jurisdictions are involved in a 60-day public comment period reviewing the Annex Implementation Agreement that will implement the Great Lakes Charter, Annex 2001.

"There is a need for the MNR as representatives of the Crown to consult First Nations people and provide resources so we might jointly develop a consultation process," John Beaucage, Grand Council Chief of the Union of Ontario Indians, said in a July 15 press release.

According to the release, Grand Chief Denise Stonefish of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians said the native groups "expect the Crown to fulfill their obligation and duty to consult."

"Last year, the Supreme Court defined a constitutional order, in which the Crown is required to negotiate with First Nations in a way that recognizes and accommodates First Nations rights," Stonefish said in the release.

The two organizations, which represent the majority of First Nations in the Great Lakes basin, are calling for a jointly developed consultation process, funding and resources for that process, and sufficient time to fully participate in the consultation.

The Union of Ontario Indians has said it will be asserting title and jurisdiction over the Great Lakes basin. In a June 29 resolution, First Nations chiefs authorized their leadership to take "whatever political or legal action is required to protect rights and jurisdiction over the waters of the Great Lakes basin." That resolution was affirmed by the Assembly of First Nations at their annual gen-

eral assembly this July in Yellowknife.

"This is much more than a jurisdictional dispute," Beaucage said in the release. "Anishnabek tradition gives our women responsibility as caretakers of the water, and they are telling us it is time to act to prevent further poisoning of our rivers and lakes that has been permitted by federal, provincial and state governments."

The Great Lakes Charter of 1985, a voluntary agreement through which the Great Lakes States and Provinces cooperatively manage the waters of the Great Lakes

gave rise to the Great Lakes Charter Annex in 2001, signed by governors and premiers to update the regional water management system and ensure that the Great Lakes are protected.

Due to sharp criticism in over 10,000 comments, the Council of Great Lakes Governors released a revised set

of proposals. Revised draft Annex Implementing Agreements were released on June 30, 2005. The revision essentially bans water diversions outside the basin while handing over more regulatory authority to local governments. The public comment period closes Aug. 29.

The revised diversion proposals makes diversion unlawful with limited exceptions including humanitarian aid, firefighting and extenuating circumstances for counties abutting the basin.

The revisions also give more authority at the state and provincial level for decisions affecting water usage within the Great Lakes basin.

However, Tribal Nations and First Nations still do not have a seat at the table as sovereign entities. Last December, tribal nations from the Great Lakes Basin joined together to sign the Water Accord asserting tribal responsibility for the Great Lakes waters.

To read the documents, see <http://www.cglg.org/projects/water/index.asp>.

"This is much more than a jurisdictional dispute. Anishnabek tradition gives our women responsibility as caretakers of the water, and they are telling us it is time to act to prevent further poisoning of our rivers and lakes ..."

— John Beaucage, Grand Council Chief, Union of Ontario Indians

Sault Tribe fundraiser makes \$10,000 for Ducks Unlimited

SAULT STE. MARIE — On June 25, Sault Tribe Chairperson Aaron Payment was presented with a plaque of appreciation by Andrew Haapala, chairman of Sault Area Ducks Unlimited, and its EUP District Chairman Gary Kay. The conservation

organization was thankful for the tribe's \$10,000 fundraising effort, "Easel Project," in which Sault Tribe's Kewadin Casinos displayed and sold Dan Heuer's wildlife paintings through sealed bid, with proceeds going to Ducks Unlimited.



WAVERING WEATHER — Weather can't seem to make up its mind this year. Nature lovers were lucky this pink moccasin flower went through its bloom cycle before Michigan's drought could affect it. Although the U.P. berries are a month ahead of schedule, they are drying up. Overall on the Great Lakes, water temperatures were reported higher than normal for this time of year, but waters on Lake Michigan's shore were frigid as upwellings caused deep water to come ashore. Lightning strikes in the eastern U.P. caused a few small fires while Lake Erie's oxygen-depleted dead zone is two months early and more widespread. For daily boating weather, GLIN's website gives current conditions on the Great Lakes, along with some experimental graphing. See <http://www.great-lakes.et/conditions/>.

Deadline

The next deadline for the CORA newsletter "Tribal Fishing" is Monday, Sept. 5.



Call or write Jennifer Dale at the CORA Public Information & Education Program 906-632-0043, or jmdale@chippewaottawa.org.

flaming good fillets

Want some good fish but can't take the heat or heavy breading? Try the dinner below; it takes very little time for a hotly spicy gourmet dinner offset by a cool, refreshing dessert. It's even healthy.

4-8 ounce skinned whitefish fillets
1 Tbs ground cumin
1/2 tsp sea salt
1/4 tsp ground black pepper
1/4 tsp ground red pepper
1 roasted red pepper*
1/2 Tbs olive oil
1 1/2 Tbs chopped cilantro
Lime wedges

Rinse and pat dry fillets and set aside. Combine cumin, salt and red and black peppers and rub mixture on both sides of fillets. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add fillets and cook until browned, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Add roasted pepper thinly sliced into rings. Let fish and peppers cook together until fish is opaque in the center, 3 to 5 minutes. Sprinkle with cilantro and serve immediately with lime wedges on a plate with sour cream, black bean chips, pico de gallo or your



favorite salsa and a extra sprig of cilantro. Follow with dessert of lemon sherbert.

* Just buy roasted red peppers canned in oil. Remove canned peppers from oil and pat dry on paper towels before chopping into rings. If you're feeling really industrious, other suggestions are to roast your own pepper, and add some chilled melon balls to the dessert.

OFFICERS OF CORA BOARD & COMMITTEES

Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC or Bay Mills)

Jeff Parker, tribal chairman
Anthony LeBlanc, Conservation Committee chairman,
GLRC vice chairman

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB)

Robert Kewaygoshkum, tribal chairman
John Concannon, Natural Resource Committee chairman

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRB)

Lee Sprague, Ogema, CORA vice chairman
Jimmy Mitchell, Natural Resource Commission chairman

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB)

Frank Ettawageshik, tribal chairman, GLRC chairman
John Keshick, Natural Resource Commission chairman

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

Fred Paquin, Tribal Director, Chief of Police, CORA chairman
Vic Matson Sr., Tribal Director, Conservation Committee Chairman

* "Great Lakes Resources Committee" of CORA, which serves as the inter-tribal management body for the treaty fishery in 1836 treaty waters.

Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

Albert "Big Abe" LeBlanc Building
179 W. Three Mile Rd.

Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783

Ph: 906-632-0043 Fax: 906-632-1141

— Put our new emails in your address book! —

Jane TenEyck, executive director, jteneyck@chippewaottawa.org
Bev Aikens, administrative assistant, baikens@chippewaottawa.org
Deanna Bowen, secretary II, dbowen@chippewaottawa.org
Jennifer Dale, public information officer, jmdale@chippewaottawa.org

Tribal Fishing, an award winning newsletter, is published by CORA bimonthly.

Contact Jennifer Dale at the phone or email above with questions or to make a submission.

MDCH finds dangerous ph levels on Bay Harbor shore; CMS reserves \$45 million for clean up

LANSING — On April 19, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) released its findings that high pH levels in puddled seep discharge water on a Bay Harbor beach pose a public health hazard.

High pH levels in cement kiln dust (CKD) seep discharge water were found on the shoreline and in near-shore surface water at the Bay Harbor Development and the Resort Township East Park – located along the southern shoreline of Little Traverse Bay west of the city of Petoskey, according to Linda Dykema, manager of MDCH's Toxicology and Response Section.

Large piles of CKD waste from a former cement manufacturing plant were disposed of in the area from about the 1920s to the 1980s, according to the MDCH release. The cement plant has since closed; however, highly alkaline water leaching from the CKD waste piles is discharging to the beach and near shore water at a Bay Harbor private beach and at East Park, according to the release.

The Detroit Free Press recently reported that CMS Energy and the EPA are negotiating immediate steps to corral the toxic runoff, and

toxic puddles are being siphoned up. According to the Free Press article, CMS reserved \$45 million in cleanup monies.

In its release, the MDCH reported the pH of some of the puddled seep discharge water found on the beach ranged from 11.5 to 13. It advised that people or pets who make direct contact with the puddles could experience irreversible damage to eyes, skin, and mucous membranes. Other areas of puddled leachate showed pH ranges of 9 to 11.5. Exposure to water at these pHs could result in irritation, dermatitis, or conjunctivitis.

According to the release, MDCH has consulted with the Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency and concurs with the public health advisories issued for the East Park and Bay Harbor CKD discharge areas.

Recommendations found in the MDCH Public Health Consultation also support further investigations being conducted in these areas by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

To see the MDCH report go to the MDCH website at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch-toxics> or call toll free at 1-800-648-6942.