

Little Traverse Bay Bands of  
Odawa Indians  
2012/2013  
Annual Harvest Report



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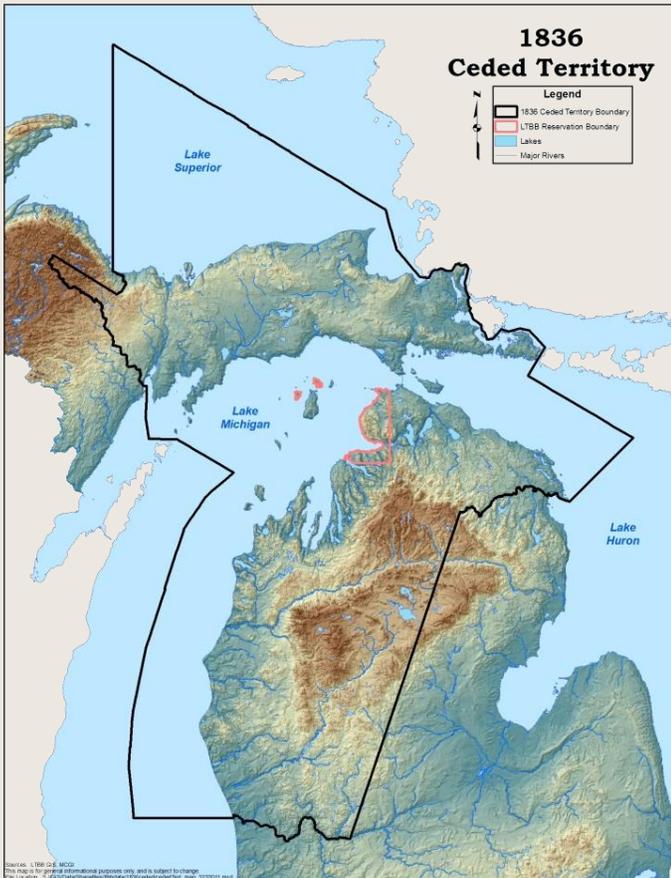
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## INTRODUCTION

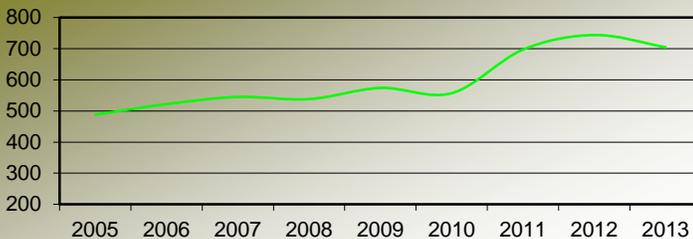
The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) Natural Resource Department/Commission has been issuing LTBB Reservation and Off Reservation (1836 Treaty Ceded Territory) inland hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering licenses since October 15, 1997 and Great Lakes commercial (captain & helper) and subsistence fishing licenses since 1994.

The inland license authorizes LTBB license holders to hunt, fish, and trap and gather within the LTBB Reservation and/or within 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory (Off Reservation). The authorized tribal member must adhere to the corresponding set of LTBB regulations according to where he/she is engaging in the activity. The LTBB Natural Resource Department issued a total of 705 Inland Hunting and Fishing licenses to LTBB tribal members in 2013 representing 15% of LTBB citizens. The State of Michigan in contrast issues licenses to less than 10% of state citizens.

The Department also issued twenty six (26) LTBB Reservation Inland Hunting and Fishing licenses to tribal members of other Federally Recognized Tribes. The *2012 Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians' Reservation Natural Resource Rules and Regulations Section V.A. Hunting Licenses* states; *Any Tribal Citizen or member of another federally recognized Tribe ten (10) years of age or older, who hunts within the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians' Reservation, while having under his/her control or immediate possession any firearm, bow and arrow, cross-bow, slingshot, or any other device capable of killing or restraining fur bearers or E'weesi'ek (game) shall have in his/her possession a valid and current Tribal license..*



### Licenses Issued



“Natural Resource Department issued 705 Inland Hunting and Fishing licenses to LTBB tribal members. Representing 15% of LTBB’s citizens.”

All inland hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering licenses expire each year on Sunday of the first full weekend in January.

Tribal members between 18 and 54 years of age are required to pay a five-dollar (\$5.00) license fee. Tribal members 17 years of age and under and Tribal Elders 55 years of age and older are not required to pay any license fees.

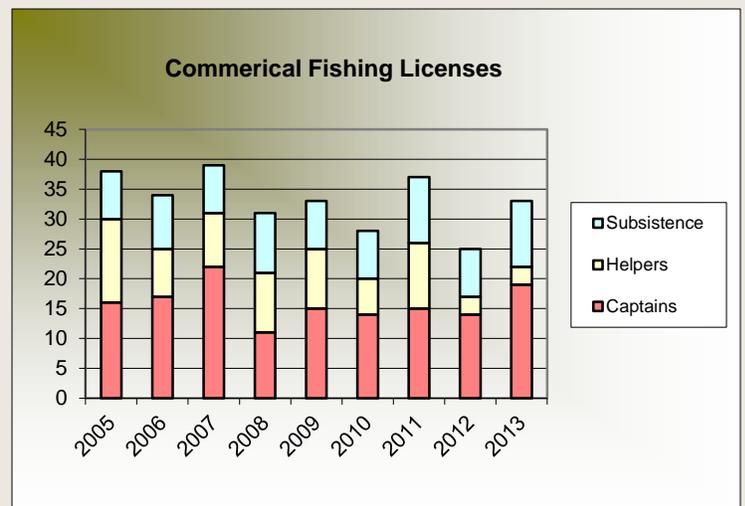
The LTBB Natural Resource Commission promulgates and approves the inland regulations on an annual basis in accordance with their “Rules and Regulations Change Policy.” The policy details Tribal member involvement and the schedule for the process. The process typically begins in June with regulation changes proposed by the NRD. The NRC is then required by policy to have a list of recommended changes finalized by August 1 with the process concluding in November with NRC approval.

The Great Lakes Commercial fishing captain license entitles the holder to operate a fishing boat and to participate fully in all commercial fishing activities (including the capture and sale of catch) within and upon the 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory waters as defined in the *Great Lakes 2000 Consent Decree*. The licensed tribal member must adhere to *Commercial, Subsistence, & Recreational Fishing Regulations for the 1836 Ceded Waters of Lakes Superior, Huron, & Michigan*.

The Great Lakes Commercial fishing helper license entitles the holder to assist the holder of a Great Lakes Commercial fishing captain license in commercial fishing activities.

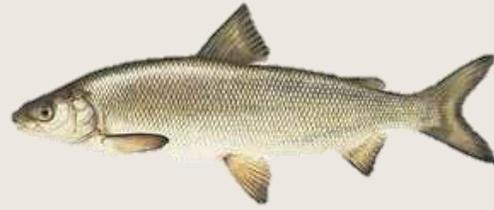


The Great Lakes subsistence fishing license authorizes LTBB License holders to fish for personal subsistence (no commercial sale) and is limited 100 lbs fish per day within and upon the 1836 Ceded Territory waters as defined in *Great Lakes 2000 Consent Decree*. Subsistence gill net fishermen are restricted to a maximum of 300’ of gill net. They must also adhere to the *Commercial, Subsistence, & Recreational Fishing Regulations for the 1836 Ceded Waters of Lakes Superior, Huron, & Michigan*.



The Department issued nineteen (19) Great Lakes Commercial fishing captain licenses,

four (4) Great Lakes Commercial fishing helper licenses and thirteen (13) Great Lakes Subsistence fishing licenses to LTBB Tribal members in 2013. There was a slight increase in the number of Captain's and Subsistence licenses issued relative to 2012. Commercial captain, commercial helper and subsistence fishing licenses expire annually on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Tribal members regardless of age are required to pay a twenty dollar (\$20) fee for a commercial captains license and ten dollars (\$10) for a commercial helpers license. Great Lake subsistence fishing licenses are free.



In 2013 LTBB issued nineteen (19) commercial captain's licenses. Nine of these commercial license holders reported harvest during the 2013 season. In 2013, LTBB commercial fishers reported harvest of 57,092 lbs of lake trout and 66,825 lbs of whitefish from the 1836 Treaty-ceded waters of the Great Lakes. The gill net fishery accounted for 91% of the harvest in 2013. A new trap net fishery located in WFM01, (see map, pg. 5,) accounted for the remaining 9%. As is typically the case, the majority of the lake trout harvest came from Lake Michigan Statistical District MM3, (which encompasses northeastern Lake Michigan, including all of the waters adjacent to the reservation,) although nearly 20% was reported from Lake Superior and Lake Huron. The majority of whitefish harvest (62%) occurred in Lake Michigan Whitefish Management Unit WFM04. The majority of the LTBB commercial effort occurred in the waters adjacent to the reservation, (see map, pg. 5).

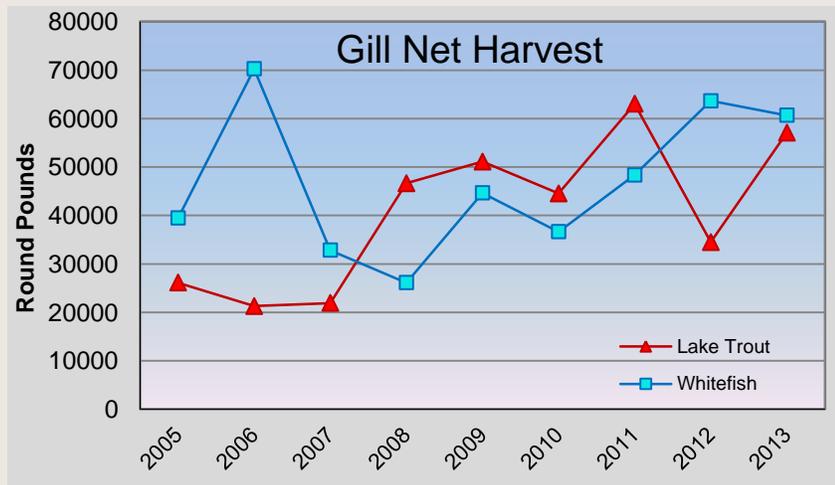
This report details tribal harvest by LTBB members in 2013 within the 1836 Ceded Territory and the LTBB Reservation (including the inland and Great Lakes) via tag/permit returns (deer, bear, elk, walleye) commercial and subsistence fishing catch reports and 2012 reported harvest via annual license holder survey results.

Gill-net effort (i.e. feet of gill-net set) was approximately 1,317,100 feet in 2013, which

## GREAT LAKES FISH HARVEST

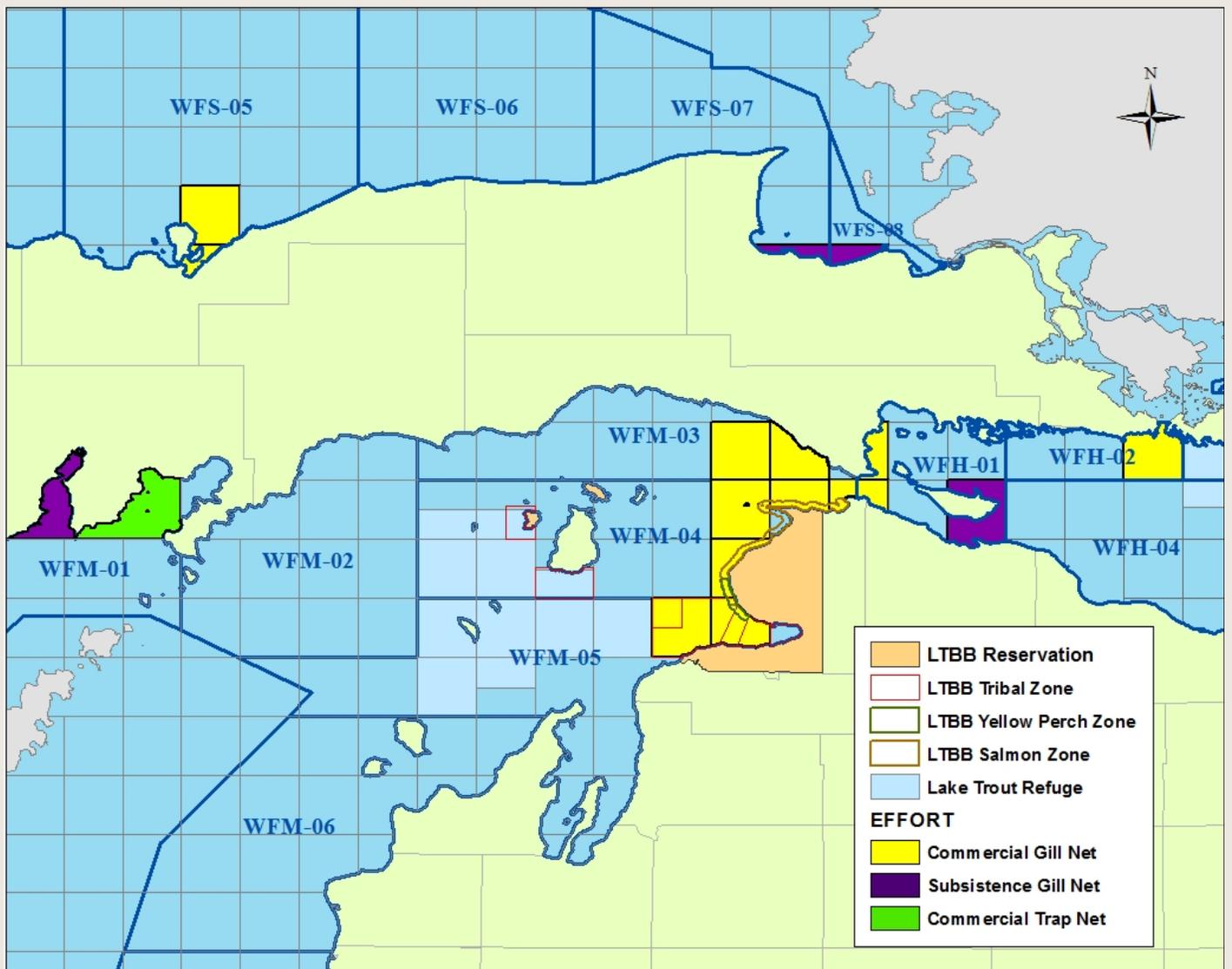
### Commercial Fish Harvest

Properly licensed tribal members may commercially fish with either trap nets (impoundment net) or gill nets, subject to the rules and regulations of the negotiated 2000 Great Lakes Consent Decree. License holders are required to file a monthly catch report each and every month during the term of their license, regardless of whether they have fished or not, and abide by the rules set forth in the *Commercial, Subsistence, and Recreational Fishing Regulations for the Ceded Waters of Lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan* (available at the NRD office or online at the Department website).



is an increase of over 400,000 feet from 2012 and is well above average effort for the last decade. However, when you calculate this increase in effort with the higher harvest, it results in a nearly equal CPUE or Catch Per Unit Effort for 2013.

Approximately 62% of LTBB whitefish harvest came from Lake Michigan management unit WFM04 (Cross Village area), 9% came from management unit WFM01 (Bay de Noc), 7% came from Lake Michigan management unit WFM03 (Northern Lake Michigan/Straits of Mackinac), and 7% came from Lake Superior management unit WFS05 (Lake

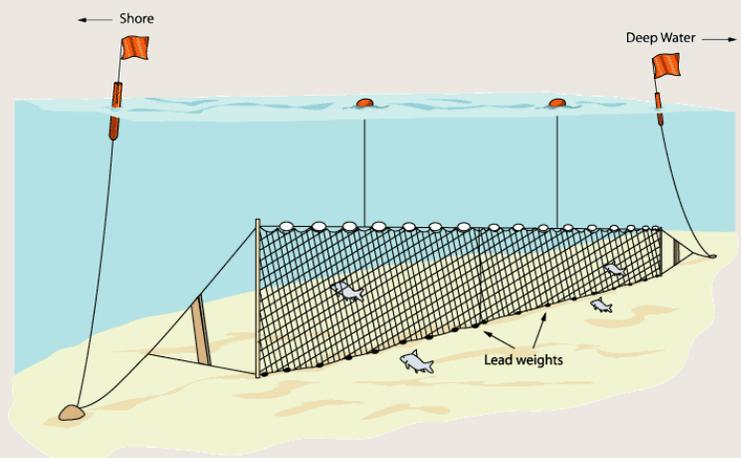
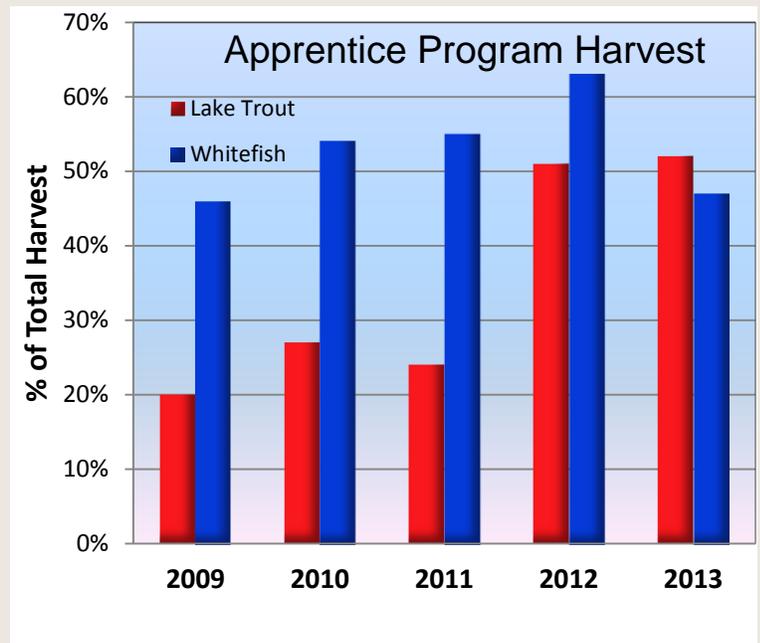


Superior). Harvest was also reported from two Lake Huron management units, WFH01 and WFH02 (13% of the harvest) and Lake Michigan unit WFM05 (2% of harvest). Consistent with proceeding years, the majority (80%) of lake trout harvested in the 2013 gill-net fishery came from Lake Michigan, while 1% percent came from Lake Superior and 19% from Lake Huron. Harvest observed during 2013 is consistent with a general trend of expansion of areas fished by LTBB commercial fishermen which has occurred over the past 4-5 years. Other species reported in harvest included menominee (round whitefish), salmon, yellow perch, walleye, herring, and suckers. These species were primarily reported as incidental harvest, (the Consent Decree allows a small daily bag limit for certain non-target species), although target fishing for yellow perch and salmon is permissible subject to special restrictions in certain portions of Lake Michigan. Pursuant to the Consent Decree, LTBB has exclusive fishing zones for these two species. (see map, pg. 5).

In 2009, with funding received from the 2000 Consent Decree, the NRC implemented the *LTBB Commercial Small Boat Apprentice Program*, to provide eligible Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians tribal members with the opportunity to gain commercial fishing experience. This apprentice program was designed to introduce tribal members, with limited or no experience, to the trade of commercial fishing from an experienced tribal commercial fishing captain. In 2013, two (2) apprentices participated in the program but were unable to successfully complete it.

All fishing effort for the program occurred in Lake Michigan management unit WFM04. Harvest reported from the program in 2013 accounted for over 50% of

the total lake trout harvest by LTBB fishermen for the year and approximately 45% of the total whitefish harvest.



### ***Subsistence Fish Harvest***

Tribal members interested in fishing the Ceded waters of the Great Lakes for subsistence must follow the State of Michigan hook and line regulations or obtain a Great Lakes subsistence license from the LTBB Natural Resources Department. When fishing under the state rules and regulations, the tribal member need only have his/her Tribal enrollment card. He/she does not have to obtain a state license. The Great Lakes subsistence license, available through the LTBB NRD, allows a tribal member to harvest up to 100 lbs of fish per day via gill net, impoundment net, hook and line, or spear. Subsistence gill-netting is limited to one (1) net of three hundred (300') feet or less per vessel per day. Tribal members interested in subsistence gill-netting in the Ceded waters of the Great Lakes are required to obtain a permit in addition to their subsistence license. Subsistence license holders are also required to submit monthly catch reports each and every month during the term of their license, regardless of whether they have fished or not. Subsistence fishermen may have seasonal or geographic restrictions that they must adhere to depending on the time of year and location in which they wish to fish. Please refer to the *Commercial,*



*Subsistence, and Recreational Fishing Regulations for the Ceded Waters of Lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan (Section XIX) and the 2000 Great Lakes Consent Decree (Section XII) for more detail.*

In 2013, thirteen (13) LTBB tribal members obtained subsistence fishing licenses, with four (4) reporting harvest. As in previous years, gill-net harvest by subsistence licensees was mainly limited to the Brimley area in Lake Superior and the Bay de Noc area of Lake Michigan however some harvest did occur near Cheboygan (see map, pg. 5.) Species harvested by subsistence license holders in 2013 included whitefish, lake trout, walleye, coho salmon, and northern pike. The aggregate harvest by subsistence license holders in 2013 totaled 381 lbs, an increase from 2012.



## INLAND FISH AND WILDLIFE HARVEST

### License Holder Survey

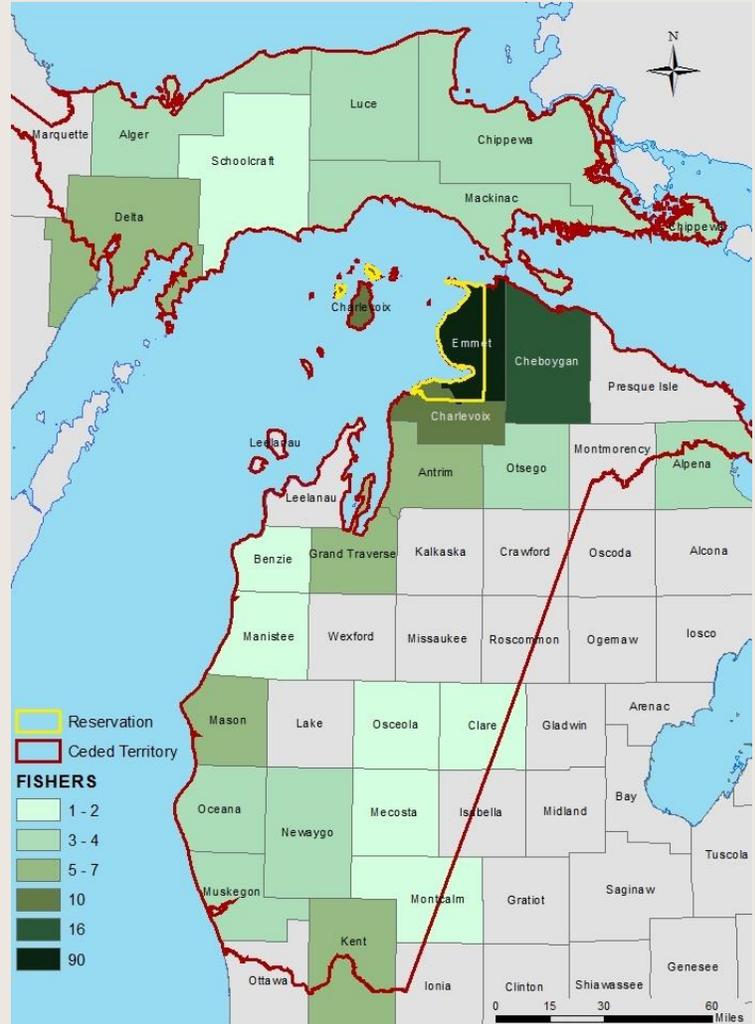
The LTBB Natural Resource Department (NRD) surveys Tribal members as a part of their license renewal process. Survey questions are focused on participation in hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering activities by tribal license holders throughout the LTBB Reservation and 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory. Survey questions also inquire about what species were harvested and where (by county). See appendix A for a copy of the 2012 License Year Harvest

### 2012 License Holder Survey Results

The LTBB Natural Resource Department renewed five hundred and ninety five (595) inland hunting and fishing licenses in 2012. Two hundred and ninety nine (299) surveys were completed for a return rate of 50%.

### Fishing

The first part of the survey, questions 1-5, is geared toward inquires of fishing related activities. Sixty seven percent (67%) of those surveyed had indicated they had fished an inland lake or stream and twenty percent



(20%) of those had stated they had fished with a spear during the 2012 season.

The top five species harvested the most often with a hook and line in 2012 were perch, blue gill, smelt, rock bass, salmon, respectively and the species harvested the most using either a spear, hands, trotline or dip net were salmon, walleye and trout.

Tribal members reported fishing frequently in 24 of the 38 counties found within the 1836 Ceded Territory. Emmet County had far and away, the highest number of tribal members reporting that it was the county they “most frequently fished,” followed by Cheboygan County and Charlevoix County. The vast majority of

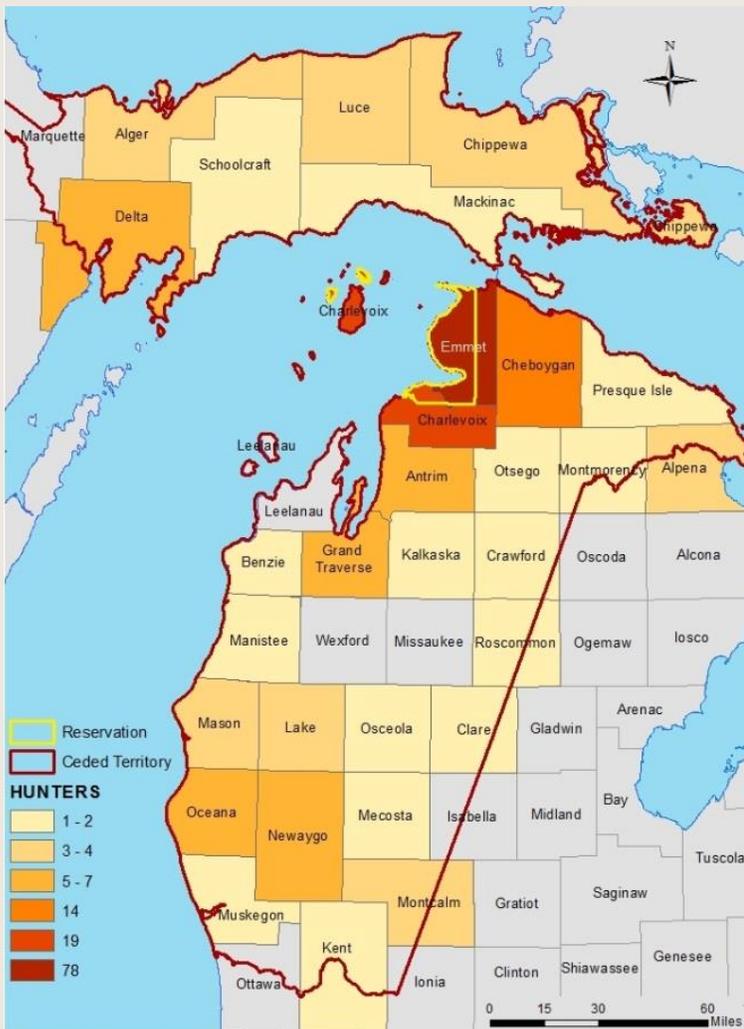
LTBB members are exercising their Inland Article 13 rights on or very near to the LTBB Reservation (see Map 1.) The remainder of those who responded fished throughout several counties within the Ceded Territory.

**Hunting**

The next section of the survey, questions 6-10, was comprised of questions designed to determine whether the member hunted, what the member hunted, whether or not they were successful in harvesting any animals and if successful how many they harvested.



Seventy five (75%) of those surveyed reported hunting under their tribal license during 2012. The species cited as being harvested most often were squirrel, deer, rabbit and grouse.



Survey respondents were asked to list the county they hunted most frequently. Thirty (30) of the 38 counties found within the 1836 Ceded Territory were cited. One hundred fifty eight of those that hunted indicated that they had “hunted most frequently” in either Emmet (25%) Charlevoix (8%) or Cheboygan (5%) Counties with the rest of the effort being dispersed among the remaining counties. Again, a majority of the hunting activity occurs on or very near the LTBB Reservation (see map).

In 2012 Tribal harvest tags were required for deer, bear and elk. The results of those specific harvests will be covered more in depth in the next section.

**Furbearer Harvest Results**

Tribal regulations define furbearers as *furbearing animals including coyote, red fox, gray fox, bobcat, beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, weasel, skunk, raccoon, badger, wolf, cougar, pine martin, fisher and opossum.* Tribal members may trap or hunt approved furbearers species. Seasons and bag limits differ by species and geographic location.



Tribal regulations prohibit the harvest of any wolves or cougar.

The Tribal regulations require all bobcat, fisher, marten or otter either shot or trapped to be presented to a biological staff member within 72 hours of being taken for inspection and registration. If the tribal member wishes to transport an otter or bobcat out of the United States, federal law requires the shipped hide to have a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag. Currently the LTBB does not have the authority to issue such tags and thus the tags must be obtained through other methods. However, the Natural Resource Department is working toward this and hopes to have the authority to issue CITES tags by the end of the year. Furbearer harvest by LTBB has been minimal and negligible at best.



Very few survey respondents, 2% (6) indicated trapping as activities they engaged in during the 2012 season. Those that did trap listed beaver (5), mink (3), and raccoon (3) as the species they harvested.



### ***Migratory Harvest Results***

There was slightly a higher percentage of participation in hunting of migratory birds, 4% (11). Tribal members reported harvesting nine (9) different species. The species harvest the most were woodcock (24) mallard ducks (15), Canadian geese (15) and bufflehead (12).

### ***Turkey Harvest Results***

Tribal regulations were amended in 2011 and no longer require tribal members to obtain harvest tags in order to hunt wild turkey. There are two (2) separate seasons for wild turkey, a spring and fall season. The spring season is April 15-June 15 and the fall is October 1- November 14. Tribal members are allowed to harvest two (2) birds of either sex in the fall season and two (2) adult males with visible beards during the spring season.

During 2012 five (5) survey respondents indicated they had hunted turkey. Fifteen (15) turkeys were reported harvested. Tribal members have reported harvesting a total of one hundred and ninety six (196) turkeys from both the fall and spring seasons since 1998.

**Gathering**

Tribal members gather plants and plant materials for a variety of reasons including, subsistence, medicinal or cultural purposes. Fifty one percent (153) of the survey respondents report gathering in 2012.

The list of materials and vegetation gathered was quite varied however the top five items gathered most by the survey respondents in 2012 were mushrooms, berries, sweetgrass, apples and birch bark respectively.

Mushrooms and berries consistently rank at the top. However, apples increased quite a bit from 2011 to 2012. The Department also issued 17 firewood, black ash and 2 conifer bough permits in 2013.



**2007 INLAND CONSENT DECREE  
ALLOCATED SPECIES HARVEST**

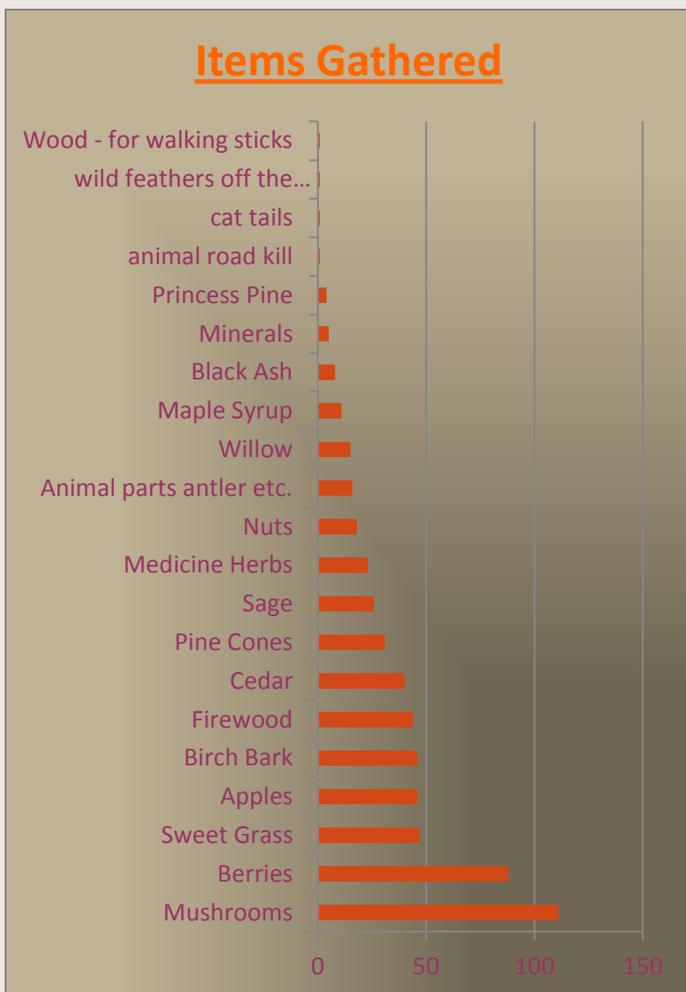
In November of 2007 the five 1836 Treaty of Washington signatory Tribes, United States and the State of Michigan entered into a Federal Consent Decree resolving the disputed Inland Article 13 Rights of the Tribes.

As a part of the negotiated 2007 Inland Consent Decree, the Tribes agreed to limit their harvest of certain species according to an agreed upon method of allocation.

**Elk**

The elk harvest is permitted in a 9 county area in the northern tip of the Lower Peninsula with a majority of the harvest occurring in or near the Pigeon River Area.

The LTBB NRD tribal elk hunter application period for a 2013 elk kill tag was from May 1 to June 1, 2013. The lottery was held at the LTBB NRC meeting on Wednesday, July 10, 2013. A total of four elk tags were available to LTBB elk hunters. No permits were issued for Hunt Period 1. LTBB elk hunters were issued four elk permits for Hunt Period 2 (two cows & two

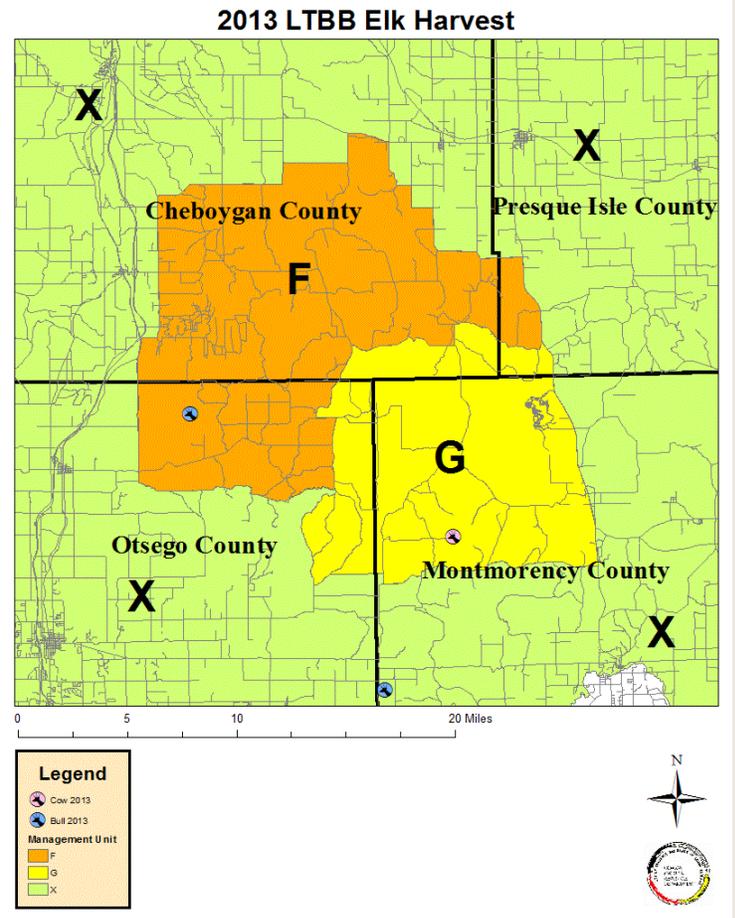




either-sex) in Unit F, G or X. There will be a third harvest period immediately following Hunt Period 2 if needed.

- Hunt Period 1 Unit L August 27-30, September 13-16 and September 27-30
- Hunt Period 2 Units F, G and X December 7-15
- Hunt Period 3 Units F, G and X December 16-30 (Extended Tribal).

Thirty seven (37) tribal members applied for an elk permit in 2012 a decrease from 40 in 2011 and fifty four (54) in 2010. LTBB issued 2 either sex permits and 2 cow permits in 2013. The Four permits were issued for Hunt Period 2 in Unit F, G or X.



Three elk were harvested during the December 2013 elk hunting period. Shawn Norton harvested a calf on December 8. Bonnie Skrocki harvested a 6x6 bull the same day (Figure 6). Joseph Parkey Jr. harvested a 4x4 bull on December 11. Bonnie and Joseph both used guides to assist them in their hunt. Patrick Wemigwase had a cow tag but was unable to harvest an elk during Hunt Period 2 or the extended hunt period.

Elk Harvest Hunt Periods	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Totals
	Cow	Bull													
Aug-Sept	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
December	2	1	3	1	4	2	3	0	2	2	2	1	1	2	26
Tribal Ex	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
January	0	0	1	0	N/A	1									
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>35</b>

**Bear**

The 2013 black bear season was September 10<sup>th</sup> - October 26<sup>th</sup>. Tribal members interested in harvesting bear must submit an application by August 1 with a five dollar application fee. In the management units where the permits requests outnumber the available quota a live lottery will be conducted to determine successful applicants. Excess bear permits/tags available after the application deadline will be issued on first come first serve basis.



The LTBB NRD issued a total of 37 black bear harvest tags in 2013. All the LTBB hunters that were interested in hunting bear were issued permits for a bear management unit.

LTBB bear hunters have harvested six in 2013. The ratio of female to male bears in 2013 is skewed 3:1. The Red Oak Bear Management Unit (BMU) remains the primary harvest unit for LTBB bear hunters. Within the Red Oak BMU, the Pleasantview Swamp receives the bulk of the hunting pressure. Since 2008, 48.1% of all bears harvested by LTBB hunters have come from this area. In 2013 the harvest from the Pleasantview Swamp has been below average at 33.3%.

Last	First	Unit Name	Tag #	Harvest Date	Seal #	Gun or Bow	Bait or Dog	Sex	Dressed Weight
Denemy	William	Red Oak	37364-1	9/11/2013	0003017	Gun	Bait	F	<100
Swartout	Robert H.	Newberry	37392-1	9/10/2013		Gun	Bait	F	205
Parkey	Joseph	Red Oak	37381-1	9/21/2013	0003018	Gun	Dog	F	N/A
Schlappi	Austin	Red Oak	37390-1	9/23/2013	0003019	Gun	Dog	M	330
Laba	James D.	Red Oak	37370-1	9/23/2013	0003020	Crossbow	Bait	F	100
Portman	George C. Jr	Red Oak	37386-1	9/22/2013	0003030	Gun	Bait	M	185

**Black Lake Sturgeon**

Section 17.3 of the 2007 Inland Consent Decree states that “*the State and the Tribes... shall negotiate allocations of sturgeon harvest when sturgeon recovery provides for such harvest, including an allocation of sturgeon harvest in Black Lake when the sturgeon population, as determined by Tribal and State biologists, includes 750 mature fish.*” In 2010 the Tribes and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) agreed that the Black Lake sturgeon population had exceeded the 750 mature adult threshold. Each year thereafter the MDNR and the Tribes will determine the safe allowable harvest and allocate that harvest equally between the Tribes and State.

On October 25, 2012 the 5 Tribes attended the CORA meeting at the Kewadin Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie. One of the meeting topics was the 2013 Tribal Black Lake Sturgeon Allocation. The final allocation resulted in a total of six fish for the 5 Tribes. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe received an allocation of two fish, while LTBB, LRBOI, BMIC, and GTB each received an allocation of one fish.

The 2013 Black Lake Sturgeon season was February 1<sup>st</sup> – June 15<sup>th</sup>. Tribal members interested in harvesting sturgeon from the Black Lake system must submit an application by January 1 with a five dollar application fee.

On Wednesday, January 11, 2012, the LTBB Natural Resource Commission conducted a live lottery to select the LTBB 2012 Black Lake Sturgeon fishermen. The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Natural Resource Department (LTBB NRD) issued one harvest tag for the Black Lake System Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*, Namé). LTBB NRD negotiated a



political quota of one fish for the 2013 harvest. LTBB tribal member, Fredrick Holdorph harvested a female Lake Sturgeon from the Black Lake System May 4, 2013. The sturgeon measured 75 inches in length and weighed 124 pounds.

LTBB Black Lake- Lake Sturgeon Harvest				
Year	Harvest Quota	Tribal Harvest	State Harvest	Total Harvest
2010	10	3	5	8
2011	14	5	11	16
2012	14	4	2	6
2013	12	1 *	6	6

\* 2013 Harvest from other Tribes unknown at this time.

**Deer Harvest Results**

All LTBB members who hunt deer are required to possess a valid LTBB Inland Hunting and Fishing License along with deer harvest tags when hunting. A harvest tag must be immediately affixed to each deer harvested. Tribal members are then further required to submit those harvest tags, whether filled or not, to the Natural Resources Department by February 1<sup>st</sup> following the end (closure) of the deer seasons.



One thousand four hundred and ninety six (1496) deer tags were issued in 2013. Thirty two percent of those have been returned so far. Sixty three percent (63%) of the deer tags issued in 2012 were returned. About half (45%) of the LTBB members receiving deer tags in 2013 were 50 yrs of age or older.

average, antler-less deer comprised sixty four percent (64%) of the harvest with the balance, forty six percent (46%) being antlered deer.

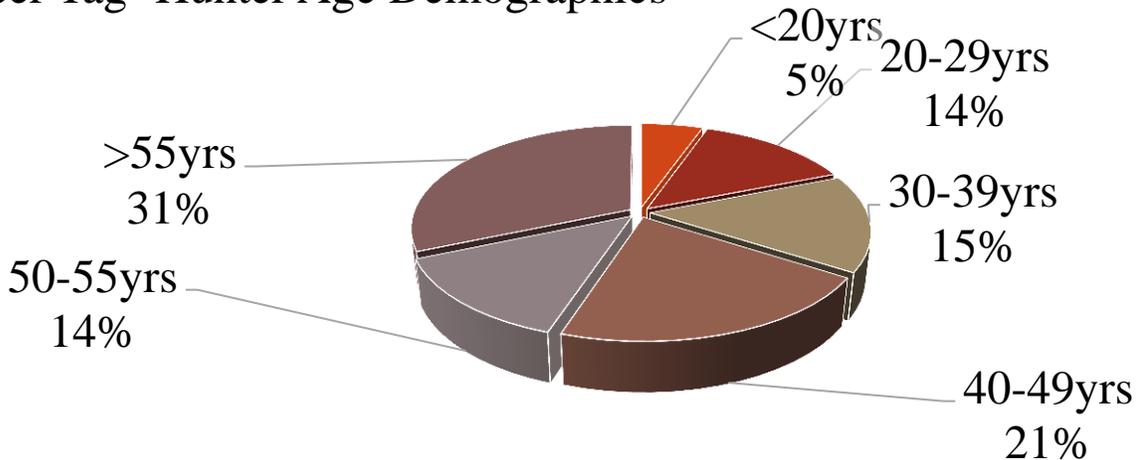
In 2013 LTBB Tribal members had 5 deer bag limit, no more than 2 of which may be antlered bucks. Antlered bucks are male deer which must have at least one antler of three inches or more.

LTBB hunters harvested deer through the use of a bow, muzzleloader and firearms, the vast majority of the deer are harvested through the use of a firearm. Eighty six percent (86%) of the total harvest in 2013 was achieved through the use of a firearm.

The final Little Traverse Bay Bands' deer harvest in 2011 was 187 deer. The 2012 preliminary deer harvest is 222. On

The Department also issued thirty one (31) special use permits in 2013. The permits were issued for a Ghost Suppers, community feasts, the LTBB Traditional Pow Wow, for subsistence by elders unable to hunt and for families in need. The Natural Resource Commission and the Human Services

**Deer Tag- Hunter Age Demographics**



Department teamed up to provide processed venison to 70 tribal elders. The NRC issued 10 Special Use Permits for the harvest of deer. Eight permits were filled. The Human Services Department paid for the processing and facilitated the distribution of the processed venison to Tribal Elders.



70% reduction in walleye and a 97% reduction in rainbow trout reported harvest.

**Spearing, Bow Fishing, Dip net, Trotline and Hand Capture**

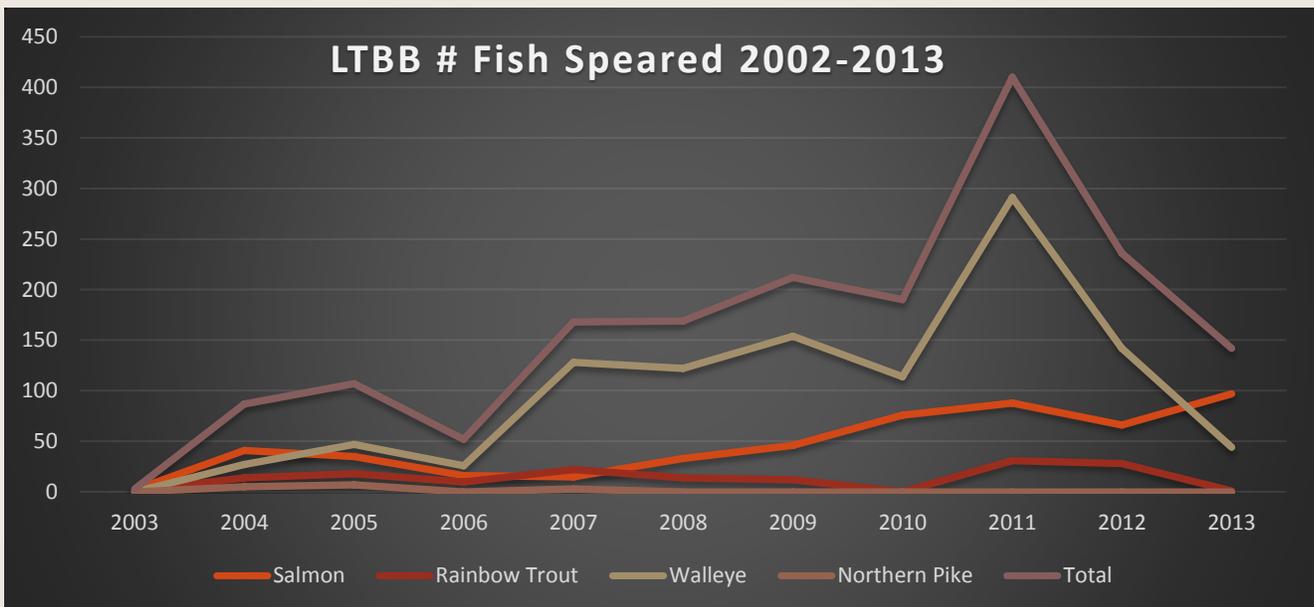
Tribal members are afforded a variety of methods to harvest fish on select water bodies within the Reservation and Ceded Territory (see tribal regulations for more detail). Tribal members involved in spearing, bow fishing, dip net, trotline or hand capture are required to fill out and submit a harvest report to the Department within seven days of harvest.

The number of returned harvest reports, fishers and total number of fish harvested for 2013 decreased significantly from 2012, continuing a downward trend for the 4th consecutive year. Twelve (12) tribal members harvest fish from four (4) different counties on seven (7) different water bodies. Though the reported salmon harvest was at an all-time high there was some evidence that not all fishermen (primarily salmon/rainbow trout) were turning in their harvest reports. The Department plans on making an extra effort to inform fishermen of this requirement and then following up with Conservation Officers.

2013 was the lowest total reported amounts of fish harvest via spear since before the signing of the 2007 Inland Consent Decree. Reported harvest was down for all species except salmon. Walleye and rainbow trout reported harvest were significantly less, a

**IV. Future Trends**

A large portion of LTBB membership continues to actively exercise their treaty



reserved rights by obtaining and using LTBB licenses. Around fifteen percent of LTBB's total membership obtained a license in 2013. The State of Michigan in contrast issues licenses to less than 10% of state citizens.

The Department continued to use the computerized walleye spearing and netting permit system. The system is designed to achieve compliance with the 2007 Inland Consent Decree and will improve the harvest data collected on walleye spearing and netting. The Department also continued to use our internal computerized license system to issue and track all the remaining inland hunting/fishing/gathering tags and licenses. The system has improved the Department's efficiency in license and tag issuance. The Department has implemented the computerized Annual License Holder Survey. The system will enable us to query and use data from the surveys harvest reports more easily. Harvest estimates will continue to be developed from various harvest reports and the annual user surveys in addition to the computerized licenses and permit systems now in place.

The Department and NRC has taken on the charge of providing education opportunities to tribal members in order to increase their participation in exercising their treaty rights. In addition to the annual Hunter Safety program, the NRD conducted a 2nd annual youth bird hunt, a youth deer hunt, and a 2nd venison processing workshop.

The LTBB NRD 2nd annual "Youth Bird Hunt" was held on September 8<sup>th</sup> in the northern part of the LTBB Reservation near Cross Village on the Dirk Shorter Property. Approximately 55 birds were purchased and released. Five kids took part in the hunt. Each group of kids was assisted by a seasoned hunter, bird dog and bird dog handler, with an emphasis on gun handling,



safe zones of fire, game handling and care, etc.

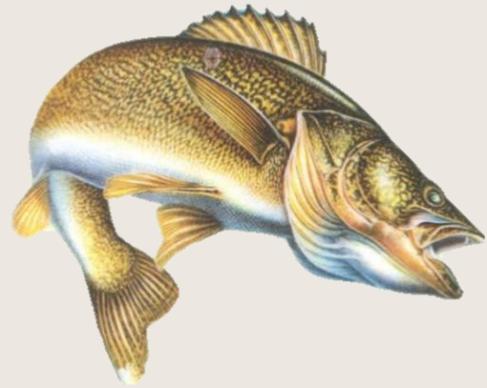
The LTBB NRD held a "Youth Deer Hunt" on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Dan Berg Farm. The NRC has leased the hunting rights of the property for the last four years. Five LTBB youth took part in the hunt. Each youth was accompanied by an adult relative or NRD staff mentor. Two of the youth successfully harvested deer during the evening hunt.

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, the LTBB NRD hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Venison processing workshop. The workshop was once again held in the NRD boat storage building. A "hanging" pole was temporarily constructed to support 6 deer to hang. Approximately 18-20 students participated and completed the whole process from skinning to packaging for the freezer. Approximately 75 packages of venison were then distributed amongst the students to take home.

Overall it appears that tribal members are exercising their rights in a wide range of ways not only limited to deer hunting but ranging from berry picking and mushroom gathering to inland fishing and migratory bird hunting to commercial and subsistence fishing on the Great Lakes. The Department has worked with Tribal membership to increase their understanding and compliance with the newer 2007 Inland Consent Decree Regulations but also to point out the new

opportunities available to them under the new the 2007 Inland Consent Decree. There has been quite bit of excitement and increased participation in Elk, Bear, Walleye and Sturgeon harvest.

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**Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians**

License Holder Survey - This survey pertains to the 2012 Hunting and Fishing Season in the 1836 Ceded Territory.

Please answer the questions by circling and/or filling in the blanks.

1) Did you fish any inland lakes or streams under your Tribal License? Yes  No

2) If you fished, please write in the number harvested per species of fish:

Species	Walleye	Bass	Bluegill	Perch	Crappie	Rock Bass	Catfish	Muskellunge	Pike
Total # Fish Harvested									

Species	Burbot	Sucker	Whitefish	Smelt	Trout	Lake Trout	Salmon
Total # Fish Harvested					Brook-Brown-Rainbow-		

3) If you fished, then what COUNTY did you fish in most frequently? \_\_\_\_\_

4) Did you fish with a Spear in any lakes or streams? Yes  No

5) If you DID fish with a Spear please write in the Species and the number per species harvested:

Species	Salmon	Lake Trout	Walleye			
Total # Harvested						

6) Did you Hunt under your Tribal License? Yes  No

7) If you hunted, please write in the number harvested per species:

Species	Deer	Pheasant	Turkey	Grouse	Squirrel	Ducks or Geese	Rabbit
Total # Harvested							

Species	Coyote	Bobcat	Fox	Bear	Raccoon	Elk	Woodcock	Other
Total # Harvested								

8) If you HUNTED, then WHAT COUNTY did you hunt in MOST FREQUENTLY?  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Other Migratory Birds**

Species	Woodcock	Snip	Sora Vail	Other
Total # Harvested				

16) Please list any positive or negative interactions you had with Tribal and/or State Conservation Enforcement, NRD department staff or any members of the general public in relation to exercise of your inland treaty activities (ex. Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering).

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

17) You were helped in a timely fashion. (Circle one).

**Strongly Agree                  Agree                  Some What Agree                  Disagree**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

18) The demeanor of the staff person who assisted you was pleasant and courteous (Circle one).

**Strongly Agree                  Agree                  Some What Agree                  Disagree**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

19) Please list any requests, comments or suggestions you may have for the Natural Resource Commission or Natural Resource Department:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_