

2016 MIZISE (TURKEY) HARVEST in the WISCONSIN and MINNESOTA 1837 and 1842 CEDED TERRITORIES

BACKGROUND

The hunting of mizise (turkeys) in the Wisconsin and Minnesota ceded territories has been a consistent activity since the reaffirmation of off-reservation harvesting under the *Voigt* decision. Once extirpated from the region, turkeys have again become established throughout much of the Wisconsin and Minnesota ceded territories, and all of the Wisconsin and Minnesota ceded territories are now included in turkey management zones. This memo summarizes the 2016 mizise harvest; additional background discussion and harvest information for the 1994-2007 period can be found in David, 2008, and harvest memos done for individual years from 2008-2015.

WISCONSIN

Nearly all of the ceded territory turkey harvest since the re-affirmation of off-reservation treaty rights has taken place in Wisconsin.

Regulations

The spring season began the Wednesday nearest April 13, and ran for 42 consecutive days. The fall season ran from the day after Labor Day to December 31. There were 5 mizise management zones within the Wisconsin ceded territory (Figure 1). Carcass tags were not required, but all birds harvested had to be registered by phone or in-person within 3 working days of harvest. The daily bag limit was 3. Complete turkey harvest regulations are included in each tribe's off-reservation model code. (A generic model code can be found under the "Harvest Regulations" tab at www.glifwc.org.)

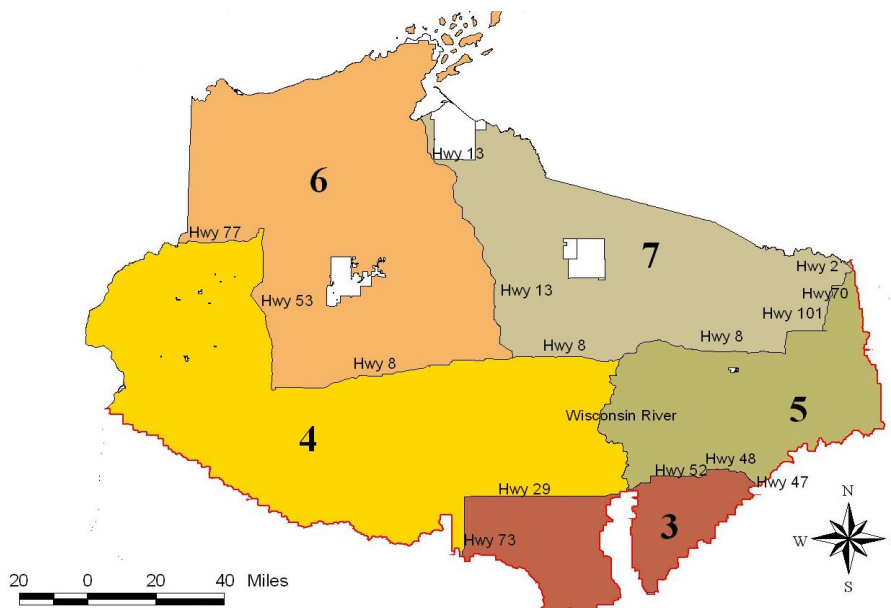


Figure 1. Wisconsin ceded territory mizise management zones for 2016.

Harvest

A total of 32 birds were registered, including 23 in the spring season and 9 in the fall (Table 1). At least 1 bird was harvested from 4 of the 5 zones in the Wisconsin ceded territory, with the largest number of birds (20) coming from zone 6.

Harvest in 2016 increased from 2015 (Figure 2). Although the majority of the harvest in 2016 occurred during the spring season, over the entire 1994-2016 period, 56% of the tribal harvest of 461 turkeys has occurred in the fall.

Season	Sex	Mizise Management Zone					Sex Total	Season Total	Year Total	
		3	4	5	6	7				
Spring	Male			3	11	2	16	23	32	
	Female			1	3	1	5			
	Unk.				2		2			
Fall	Male			2	1		3	9		32
	Female		2		3	1	6			
Zone Total			2	6	20	4				

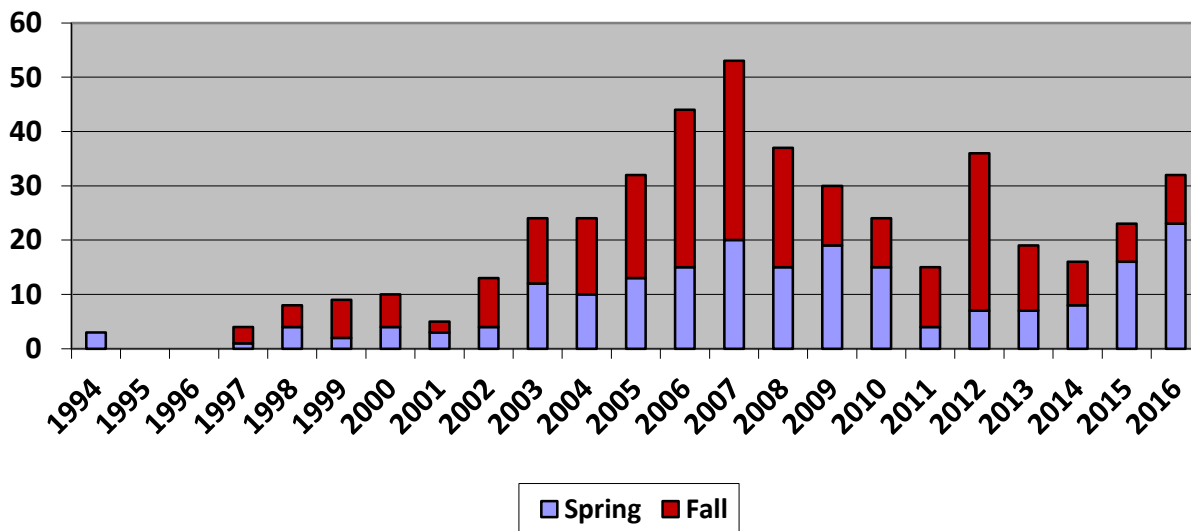


Figure 2. Wisconsin off-reservation, ceded territory mizise harvest, 1994-2016, by season.

MINNESOTA

Regulations

Mizise harvest in Minnesota has been very minimal, although all of the 1837 ceded territory was within zones open to turkey hunting with the exception of the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (Figure 3). Tribal management zones paralleled the state's, which were reconfigured in 2013, reducing the number of zones in the ceded territory. Spring season dates were April 9 – May 31; fall season dates were the day after Labor Day – Dec. 31. Complete turkey harvest regulations are included in each tribe's off-reservation model code. (A generic model code can be found under the "Harvest Regulations" tab at www.glifwc.org.)

Harvest

Two birds were reported harvested from the Minnesota ceded territory in 2016. Both birds were toms, and both were taken from zone 508 during the spring season. The total previous harvest from the MN ceded territory since 1998 consisted of 2 birds taken in 2015, 3 birds taken in 2014, 1 bird taken in 2013, 3 birds taken in 2010, 3 in 2008 and 2 in 2007 (total of 16 birds through 2016).

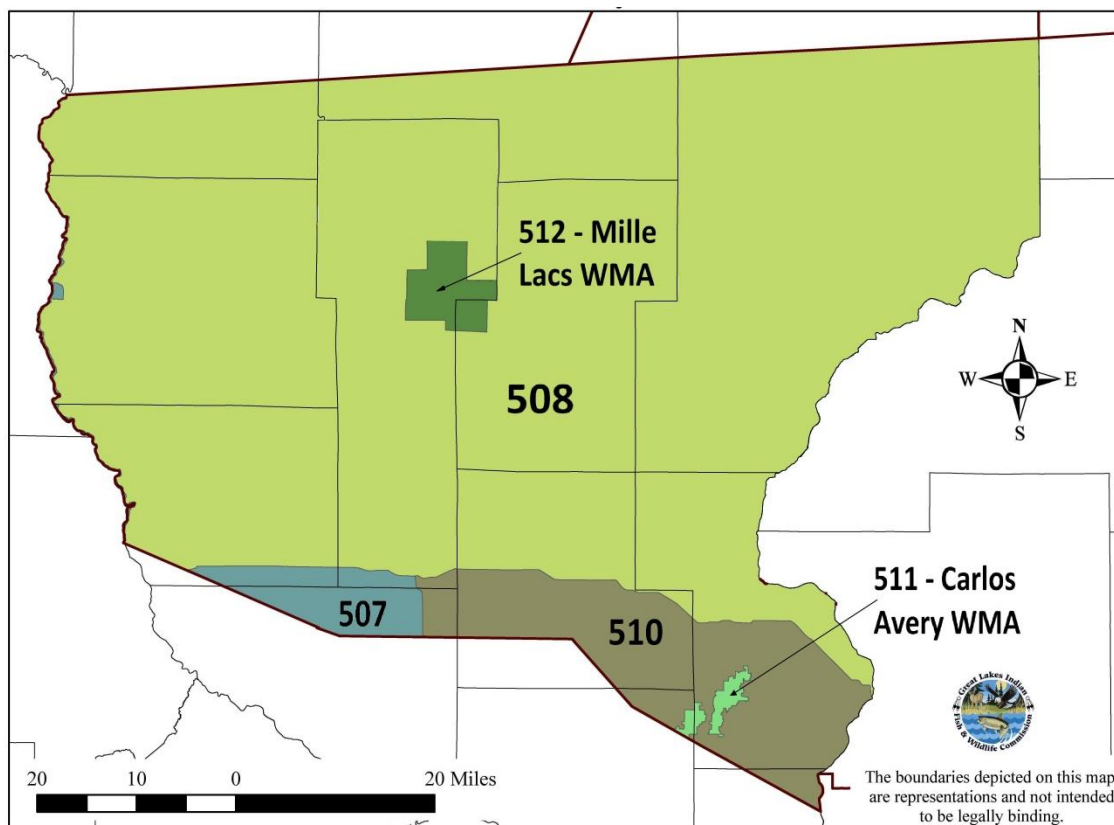


Figure 3. Minnesota 1837 ceded territory mizise zones in 2016.

LITERATURE CITED

David, P. 2008. Mizise (Turkey) Harvest in the Wisconsin Ceded Territories, 1994-2007. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Administrative Report 08-14. 5pp.