



Results of the 1996 Waawaashkeshi (Deer) and Makwa (Bear) Hunting Seasons in the Ceded Territories of Michigan

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Introduction

This report summarizes the 1996 tribal harvest of waawaashkeshi (deer) and makwa (bear) on lands in Michigan that were ceded to the United States by the Lake Superior Ojibwa in the treaties of 1836 and 1842 (Fig. 1). The majority of hunters were members of 3 Lake Superior bands with reservations in the upper peninsula (UP): Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC), Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC), and the Lac Vieux Desert Band (LVD) (see Fig. 1). However, harvest in the UP by other tribes signatory to the treaty of 1842 is also reported.

Deer Hunting

Regulations

Tribal hunters within Michigan were regulated by distinct and specific tribal regulations for the 1996 season. Table 1 summarizes the major features of each tribe's deer hunting regulations.

Table 1. Tribal deer hunting season dates and bag limits for GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan.

Tribe	Season Dates	Antlerless Bag Limit	Season Bag Limit
BMIC	1 Aug - 1 Jan	none	none
KBIC	1 Sep - 31 Dec	none	4
LVD	3 Sep - 31 Dec	annual quota	none

Bay Mills tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the BMIC Conservation Code. All members hunting off-reservation were required to carry a valid hunting permit issued by the tribal conservation department good for either antlerless or antlered deer on public lands within the 1836 treaty boundaries. The deer hunting season opened on August 1st and closed on January 1st. Hunting hours were from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Tribal members were not required to register deer taken within the 1836 treaty area. There was no commercial harvest of deer but harvest for subsistence use was unlimited.

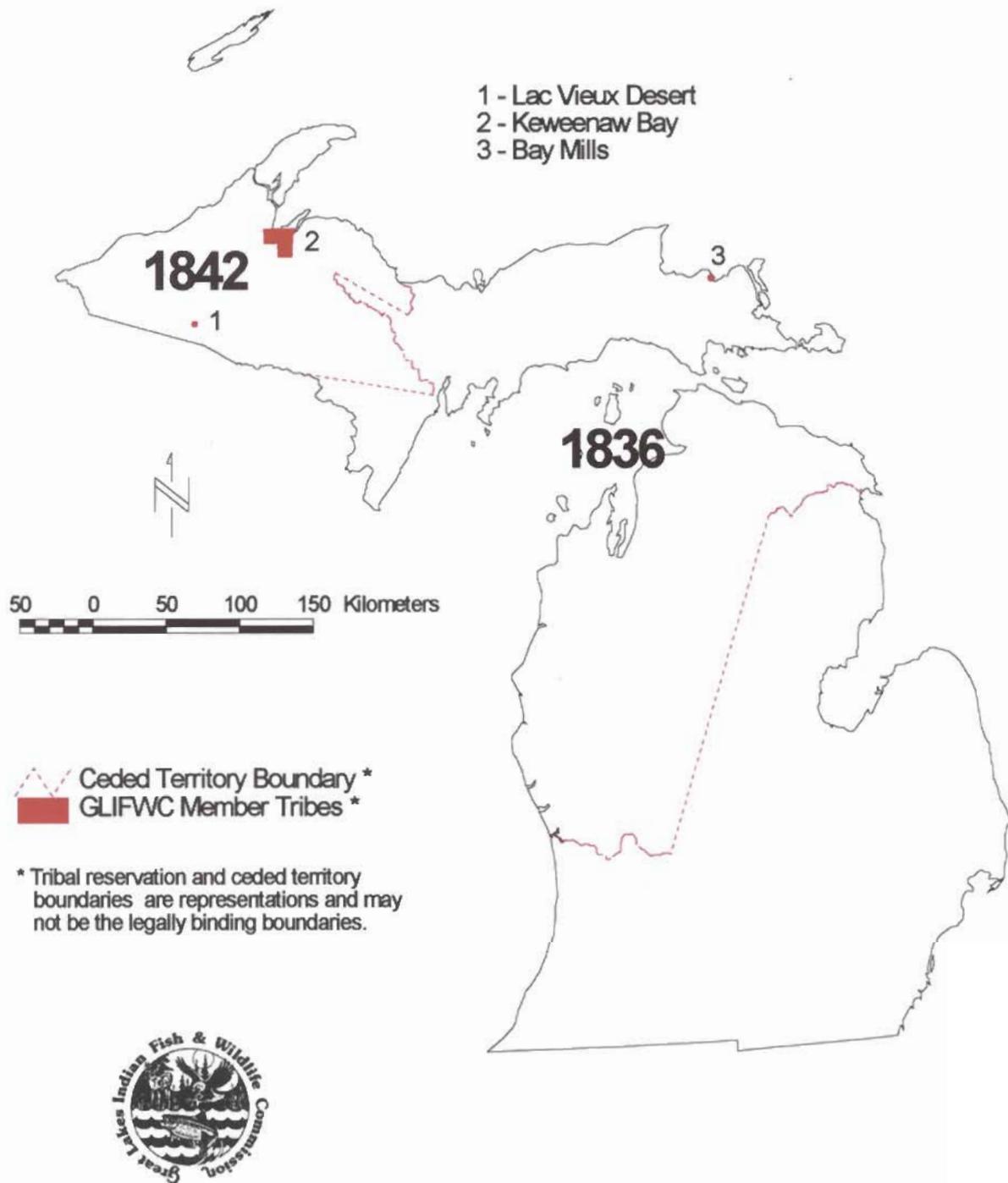


Figure 1. Location of GLIFWC member tribes and ceded territory boundaries in Michigan.

_____Keweenaw Bay tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the KBIC Tribal Code. The deer hunting season opened on September 1st and closed on December 31st. Tribal hunters were required to possess a valid tribal hunting and fishing card that allowed members to hunt on reservation lands and public lands off-reservation throughout the 1842 treaty area. Initially 2 deer tags good for either antlerless or antlered deer were issued. Two additional tags could be obtained after registering the first 2 deer for a maximum of 4 deer during the season. All deer were required to be registered with the KBIC Conservation/Law Enforcement Program within 7 days of harvest.

_____Lac Vieux Desert tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the LVD Off-Reservation Conservation Code. The deer hunting season opened on the day after Labor Day and closed on December 31st. Hunting hours were ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. Tribal hunters were required to possess a valid off-reservation natural resources harvesting permit and were initially issued 2 carcass tags. Additional carcass tags could be obtained upon registration of any deer. Antlerless permits were required to harvest antlerless deer. All deer harvested were required to be tagged and registered at a tribal registration station by 5 p.m. of the next working day.

Methods

1836 Ceded Territory.-Bay Mills hunters were surveyed to estimate the number of deer harvested. The 1994 and 1995 survey relied on hunters to return questionnaires via the mail and required several follow up reminders to solicit an adequate sample size (Dlutkowski 1996). In 1996, a telephone survey (Appendix A) was used to reduce a suspected bias towards successful hunters in previous mail surveys. Permit holders were sorted alphabetically and every third permittee was selected from a random starting point. For permit holders that were unreachable after ~5 attempts, the next available permittee was surveyed. A total of 39 (32%) permittees were contacted. Total harvest was estimated by multiplying the mean number of deer harvested per permit by the total number of permits issued. The antlerless ratio, and harvest by county and month were calculated similarly.

1842 Ceded Territory.-Harvest data for the 1842 ceded territory in the UP were obtained from tribal registration stations where information was collected on each deer registered. Information included county and date of harvest, and whether or not the deer was antlered. Data from the KBIC registration station did not differentiate between on and off-reservation harvest.

Results

The total tribal deer harvest in Michigan was estimated at 190 deer (49% antlerless)(Table 2). A total of 131 deer (52% antlerless) were registered in the 1842 portion of the UP and total harvest for the 1836 portion of the UP was estimated to be 50 deer (42% antlerless). Another 9 deer were harvested in various counties of the 1836 ceded territory in the lower peninsula. Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of harvest by county for the ceded territories of Michigan, although the ceded portion of the lower peninsula was treated as 1 unit.

Bay Mills tribal members accounted for all deer harvested in the 1836 ceded territory. Keweenaw Bay and Lac Vieux Desert members accounted for the majority of harvest in the 1842 portion of the UP, although a few members from other tribes also contributed to the harvest (Table 2). Harvest was greatest during October and November (Fig. 3).

Table 2. Deer harvest by tribe for ceded territories in Michigan, 1996.

Tribe	Treaty Area	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Bay Mills Indian Community	1836	34	25	59
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community	1842	49	41	90
Lac Courte Oreilles	1842	2	2	4
Lac du Flambeau	1842	3	3	6
Lac Vieux Desert	1842	8	20	28
Mole Lake	1842	1	1	2
Unknown	1842	0	1	1
Total		97	93	190

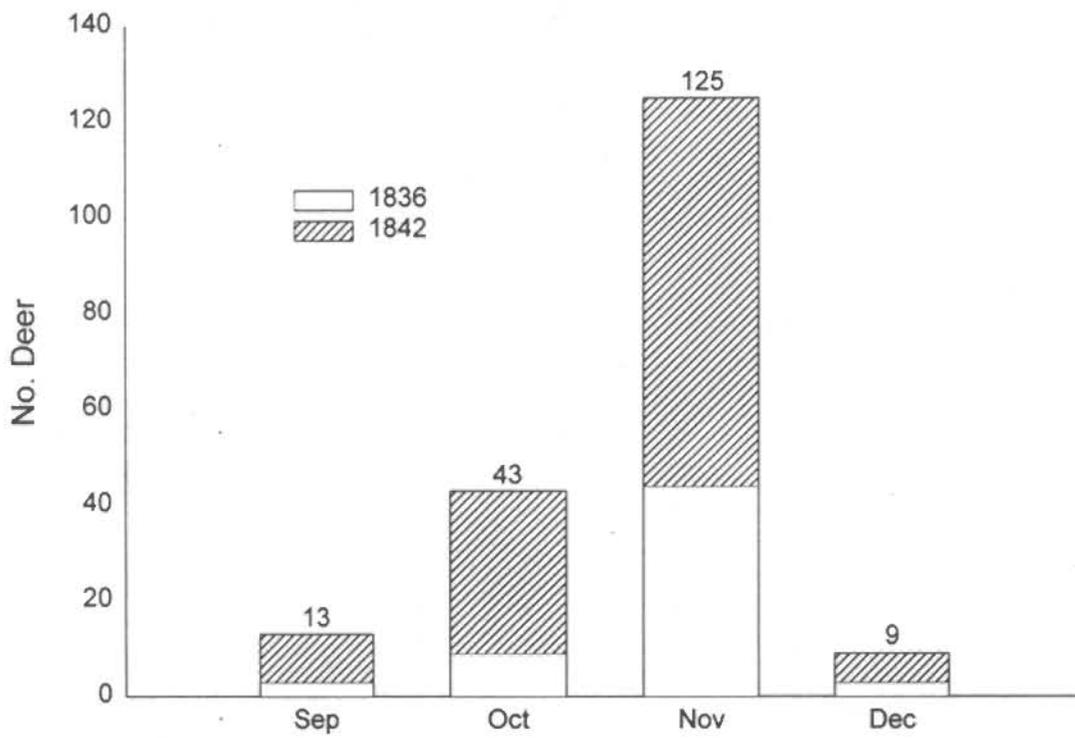


Figure 3. Deer harvest by month in Michigan, 1996.

Bear Hunting

Regulations

As with deer hunting, distinct tribal regulations governed tribal bear harvest in Michigan. Table 3 summarizes the major features of each tribe's bear hunting regulations.

Table 3. Tribal bear hunting season dates and bag limits for GLIFWC member tribes in Michigan.

Tribes	Season Dates	Bag Limit
BMIC	1 Apr - 30 Jun 1 Sep - 30 Nov	none
KBIC	1 Sep - 31 Dec	1
LVD	3 Sep - 31 Dec	none

_____ Bay Mills tribal members hunted under the regulations outlined in the BMIC Conservation Code. All members hunting off-reservation were required to carry a valid hunting permit issued by the tribal conservation department. The open season for bear ran from 1 April - 30 June and from 1 September - 30 November. Registration was not required for harvested bears and there was no bag limit. Unlawful hunting methods included harvesting or molesting a bear in its den as well as harvesting a cub or a sow with cubs. Bait was restricted to organic matter placed on the ground.

_____ Keweenaw Bay tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the KBIC Tribal Code. As per KBIC deer hunting regulations, the possession of a valid tribal hunting and fishing card allowed tribal members to hunt on public property both on and off-reservation throughout the 1842 treaty area. The open season for bear ran from 1 September - 31 December. Registration was required for all harvested bear and the bag limit was 1 per season. Unlawful methods included the use of dogs, snares, or traps.

_____ Lac Vieux Desert tribal members hunted under regulations outlined in the LVD Off-Reservation Conservation Code. The open season ran from the day after Labor Day - 31 October. There was no bag limit and registration was required for all bear harvested.

Methods

1836 Ceded Territory.-In 1996, a telephone survey (Appendix B) was initiated (as described above) to estimate the number of bear harvested. A total of 31 (29%) permittees were contacted.

1842 Ceded Territory.-Harvest data for the 1842 portion of the UP were obtained from tribal registration stations where information was collected on each bear registered. Information included sex, county, and date of harvest. Data from the KBIC registration station did not differentiate between on and off-reservation harvest.

Results

A total of 7 bear were harvested in the upper peninsula of Michigan in 1996 (Table 4). The entire harvest was taken in the 1842 portion of the UP by members of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Only 1 member of the Bay Mills Indian Community reported actually hunting for bear and no harvest was reported. Similarly, no bear were registered by members of the Lac Vieux Desert Band.

Table 4. Number of bear harvested by sex and county during the 1996 tribal bear season in Michigan.

County	Boar	Sow	Total
Baraga	5	0	5
Marquette	1	1	2
Total	6	1	7

Acknowledgments

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Literature Cited

Dlutkowski, L.A. 1996. Results of the 1995 deer (waawaashkeshi) and bear (makwa) hunting seasons in the Michigan ceded territories. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildl. Comm. Admin. Rep. 96-06. 13pp.

**1996 OFF-reservation WAAWAASHKESHI (DEER) harvest survey
1836 Ceded Territory**

Did you hunt DEER **OFF-RESERVATION** during the 1996 tribal deer season? Yes No

In which county or counties did you hunt?

Chippewa Mackinaw Luce Other : _____

How many deer did you harvest? _____

Deer	Antlered	Antlerless	Date of Harvest	County of Harvest
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				

How many days did you hunt?

1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 13-16 16+

What was your preferred hunting method?

Baiting Drives Hunting from stand Stalking on foot Other _____

**1996 OFF-reservation MAKWA (BEAR) harvest survey
1836 Ceded Territory**

Did you hunt BEAR **OFF-RESERVATION** during the 1996 tribal bear season? Yes No

In which county or counties did you hunt?

Chippewa Mackinaw Luce Other : _____

How many bears did you harvest? _____

Bear	Boar	Sow	Date of Harvest	County of Harvest
1				
2				
3				

How many days did you hunt?

1-3 4-6 7-9 10-12 13-16 16+

What was your preferred hunting method?

Baiting Drives Hunting from stand Stalking on foot Other _____