

GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION

P. O. Box 9 • Odanah, WI 54861 • 715/682-6619 • FAX 715/682-9294



• MEMBER TRIBES •

MICHIGAN

Bay Mills Community
Keweenaw Bay Community
Lac Vieux Desert Band

WISCONSIN

Bad River Band
Lac Courte Oreilles Band
Lac du Flambeau Band

MINNESOTA

Fond du Lac Band
Mille Lacs Band

Red Cliff Band
St. Croix Chippewa
Sokaogon Chippewa

2017 Lake Mille Lacs Ogaa (Walleye) Season

A Statement from Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

Executive Administrator James Zorn

March 23, 2017

The Bands exercising treaty fishing rights in Mille Lacs Lake join with the State of Minnesota in taking the steps necessary to protect the lake's walleye population. The Bands and the State have agreed on measures that will afford fishing opportunities for both Band members and state license holders consistent with the current population status while protecting the walleye spawning stock, in particular, the 2013 year class as the only strong year class in the past seven years.

Through the Minnesota 1837 Ceded Territory Fisheries Committee process, fishery managers have established a 2017 walleye harvestable surplus of 64,000 pounds. The Bands have agreed to limit their allocation to 19,200 pounds or 30% of this amount, an amount significantly below their demonstrated need. They are committed to managing their fishery to remain within this allocation, as they have done in all previous years.

The Bands acknowledge the State's 2017 walleye season regulations, which reflect a commitment to remain within the State's allocation as a prerequisite for protecting the spawning stock. The Bands are particularly pleased that the State has agreed to repay its 2016 quota overage in equal installments over the next four years. The Bands' allocations will not increase. The Bands do not intend to harvest the fish made available by these state reductions. Repaid walleye will remain in the population to help meet our shared population goals.

The Bands acknowledge that diminished walleye fishing opportunities cause many hardships for Band and neighboring communities. They reaffirm their commitment to work with the State to better understand the evolving Mille Lacs Lake ecosystem and to do all that they can to restore a healthy, self-sustaining walleye population for generations to come.