

# GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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## • 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

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Lost net on Lake Mille Lacs recovered

*GLIFWC member tribes continue to implement conservative harvest*

**Odanah, WI**, Enforcement officials at Fond du Lac Conservation Enforcement Department and Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission are investigating the circumstances surrounding a lost net recovered on May 20<sup>th</sup> from Lake Mille Lacs.

All of the fish found in the net were counted against the Fond du Lac Band's overall walleye quota for this fishing year. The net contained 67 walleye weighing in at 112.4 pounds. Going into the spring season, GLIFWC member tribes continue to take a conservative approach to harvesting this year on Lake Mille Lacs with a total allocation of 47,200 pounds of walleye.

“All sovereign entities work together to jointly monitor the fisheries and we strive to find consensus in management decisions based upon the science. Lake Mille Lacs is a prime example of successful co-management” says GLIFWC Director of Biological Services Dr. Jonathan Gilbert.

Based upon joint modeling efforts between GLIFWC, the Bands and the State Biologists, there has been an estimated 30% increase in spawning stock biomass from 2017 to 2018. The boost in walleye numbers comes after years of very conservative harvests and cooperative efforts to sharply reduce walleye mortality. Researchers have identified a

variety of factors contributing to walleye decline in Lake Mille Lacs including: increased water clarity, invasive species, increased water temperatures, and climate change.

The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission is an intertribal organization comprised of eleven member Ojibwe bands located in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. GLIFWC works with member bands to both manage and preserve off-reservation treaty reserved rights and resources. Please visit [www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org) for more information about GLIFWC.