Jonathan Gilbert

My purpose is I have a series of slides which I hope are going to get projected behind me here. They're kind of boring slides and nowhere near as eloquent as Dr. Spangler, but it's the first time I think that these data have been presented and collected in this manner. I thought it was informative for this audience and this panel, to show you what the harvest has been.

I've selected the various resources that we've monitored over time and put together a series of graphs to show you what that harvest is. We'll go through them up here fairly quickly. I've collected them also into a handout and they are available over on the table so you can have that information with you and take it home with you so you don't have to write down numbers and graphs and stuff from the slides. Harvest management is recording harvest and quantifying how much has been taken. This is the central role of GLIFWC. This is what our job is primarily. Implementation of treaty rights means enabling native Anishinaabe, Ojibwe Indians to go out and harvest resources through the establishment of rules and regulations. This includes all of the permits and tags. We need to make sure it's done in an orderly way while also counting what's harvested and reporting on that.

Early on when we started talking about this topic with tribes, when we came in as white biologists, dealing with Indian people, the idea of counting things and registering, accounting for what the harvest was seen as an imposition. Why do we need to do that? We've never done that before. But the biologist's point and my point over 25 years talking with tribes about this is that this data is power. This is the power that enables tribes to be able to advance their causes. This is where the power comes from. The ability of people to go out and harvest these resources under their own sets of rules and regulations to maintain their own lifeway is a very powerful thing.

I wanted to present this to you and I'll go through these fairly quickly. I'll have a couple comments for every slide just to explain what the slide is. This one is the water fowl harvest slide (Figure 1).

Water fowl harvests are estimated using a questionnaire, telephone interviews and surveys done periodically. That's why we don't have a bar on each year. And you can see how the progression of water fowl, ducks, geese and coots, harvests represented by different colors are repeated over time.

The next one is wild rice (Figure 2). Again, just pay attention to the axis so you can see what the units are. In this case it is pounds of wild rice harvested over time. You can't see the bottom of the chart but it starts in '92, and then out to 2008. It perhaps reflects some of the variations you see in wild rice abundance from year to year.

Walleye is one of those minor issues that we deal with (Figure 3). You can see how the walleye harvest illustrates one of the other factors that are common elements in these harvest progressions. It starts out relatively low and over time increases. So, as people get used to the activity and used to the rules and regulations and become familiar with places to go, that harvest increases over time.

Mille Lacs walleye harvest also shows an increase, but this is maybe more of an institutional increase (Figure 4). In this case the exercise of treaty rights was planned to be implemented in phases over time and so you can see that these phases resulted a gradual increase in harvest but in a phased progression. This is more of an intentional increase in harvest rather than one that came about as people became familiar with the resource.

Wisconsin walleye harvest ratcheted up here pretty quickly (Figure 5). It maintained at high levels, 25,000 fish or so a year and it stayed relatively constant over time. All these walleye harvests have come from direct counts of fish. People at boat landings counted all fish as they came off the lake. We know 100 percent of the harvest. No estimation going on.

Lake trout is a commercial fishery in Lake Superior (Figure 6). This represents commercial fishing reports from tribal commercial fishermen in Lake Superior across from Minnesota and across the UP of Michigan.

Whitefish in Lake Superior is same thing (Figure 7). The footnote on the bottom left on your handout tells you who the tribes are and where the data came from so you will be able to trace that back if you need.

Deer is an interesting pattern (Figure 8). I'll be interested to hear feedback from the group after we have our discussion. The same general pattern of increasing harvest over time where we get to a general point to where there's some stability. In the more recent years we have this decline despite the inclusion of the Minnesota and Michigan deer harvest in this graph. It's kind of going down over time since the mid '90s. Why is that? I don't know.

Bear is a sensitive species (Figure 9). This one is difficult to manage the harvest. People are hesitant sometimes to become involved too heavily in bear harvest, especially those people who are members of the bear clan. We treat this one with as much sensitivity as we can. Again, you can see that same kind of progression starting low and then gradually increasing over time with a very high harvest in more recent times. This may be reflective of an increased bear population.

This is fisher harvest over time, again the general pattern of increasing (Figure 10). These are direct counts of registered animals. This is not an estimate based on survey. These are from the registration of harvest. The otter has the same kind of situation (Figure 11). There is a very low harvest though for a number of years and then more recently things have really increased. This is perhaps due to pelt prices becoming more valuable these days.

With regard to the bobcat harvest, make sure you look at the Y axis on these for the units (Figure 12). They change quite a bit where you go from hundreds of thousands of pounds of lake trout to just a few dozen bobcats. The Y axis really does vary quite a bit. Bobcat harvest shows the same general trend of increasing over time.

The next chart is gathering of non-timber forest products (Figure 13). A lot of birch bark, firewood and balsam boughs are being gathered. GLIFWC issues permits for that. This is just the number of permits that are issued. We don't do a lot of harvest estimation for this but do some telephone surveys. I just wanted to show you the level of participation that we get by tribal members.

The next slide shows you over time two things (Figure 14). The number of trees and birch bark is measured in trees harvested in blue bars and firewood in the red bars is measured by cords of wood. And again you can see that general trend of increasing over time.

I wanted to provide that information to you. That's what the actual harvests have been. We monitor the impacts of harvests and that is why we want to know what the harvests are.

As I look at those species, the list of species that we just went through and all those graphs and I think about the status of those species in ceded territories in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. For every one of them the species status has improved since 1984. There has been a net improvement in every one of those species' population.

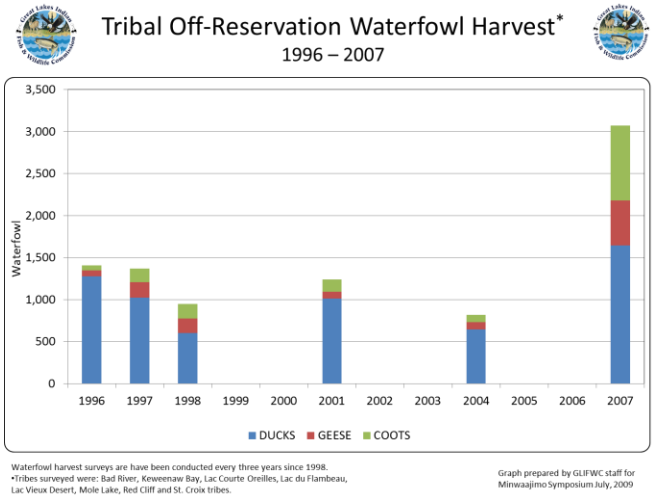
Now, we could think about this in two ways. I can think about it by looking at it very analytically and saying we've done a great job of regulating this harvest and managing the

harvest by state and tribal harvesters. It's resulted in a net improvement of these resources. That's the science view, the western science view.

Or I can look at it from the perspective of *Gitchi-gami Inini nindizhinikaaz*, the tribal perspective. I think about the lessons that I've learned from people like George Newago who talk about respectful use of these resources and that resources are improved when they're used respectfully. I think that maybe in the exercise of these rights and this respectful use, much like what George is talking with seasonal round, this respectful use of this resource has directly resulted in the improvement of the status.

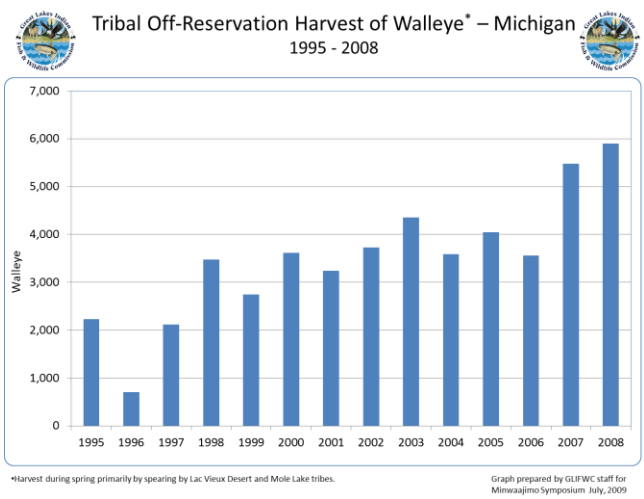
We have two ways of looking at this. One is the respectful issue of all these treaty rights. You've have a western science way of looking at things and the Ojibwe way of looking at things. So which one? I'm not going to answer that question but leave it up to you guys and maybe we can talk about it. That's all I have.

Figure 1



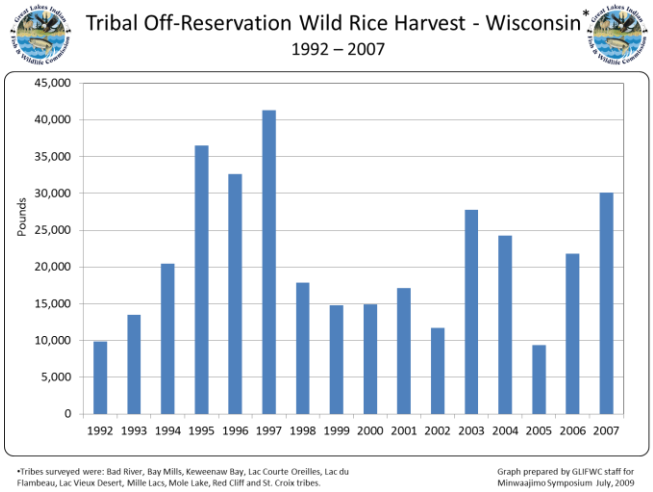
Note: Waterfowl harvest surveys are have been conducted every three years since 1998. Tribes surveyed were: Bad River, Keweenaw Bay, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Vieux Desert, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix tribes.

Figure 2



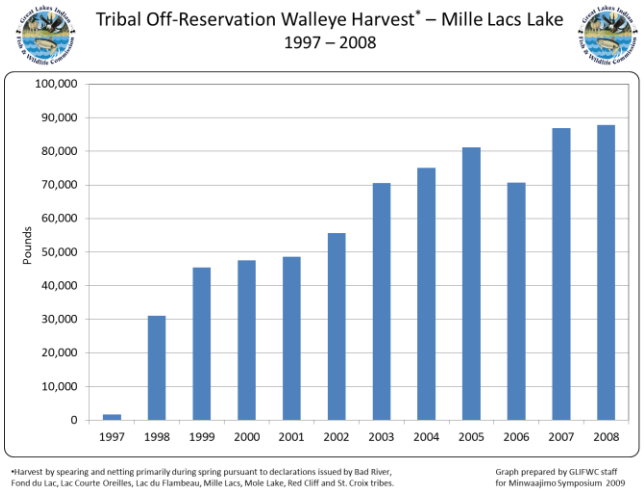
Note: Tribes surveyed were: Bad River, Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Vieux Desert, Mille Lacs, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix tribes.

Figure 3



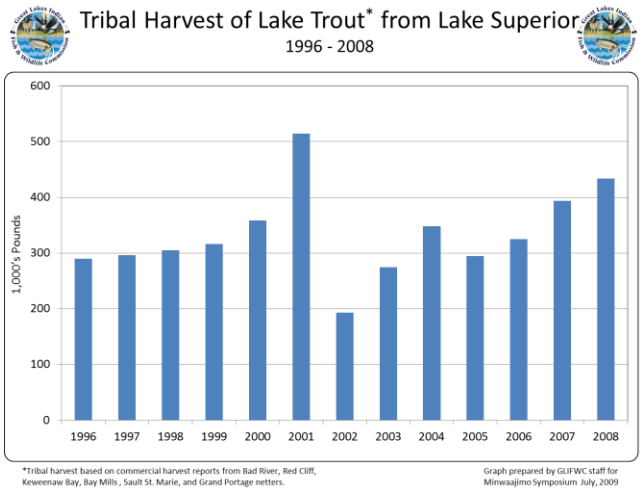
Note: Harvest during spring primarily by spearing by Lac Vieux Desert and Mole Lake tribes

Figure 4



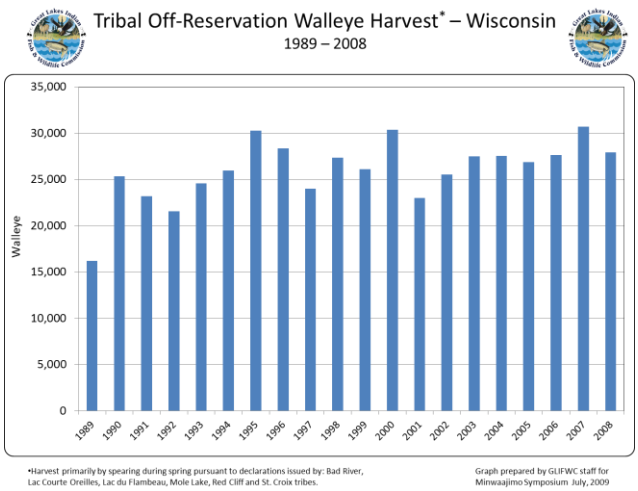
Note: Harvest by spearing and netting primarily during spring pursuant to declarations issued by Bad River, Fond du Lac, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mille Lacs, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix tribes

Figure 5



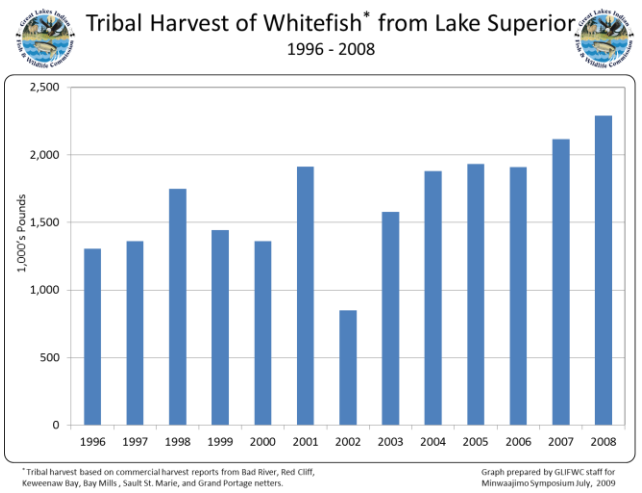
Note: Harvest primarily by spearing during spring pursuant to declarations issued by: Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix tribes.

Figure 6



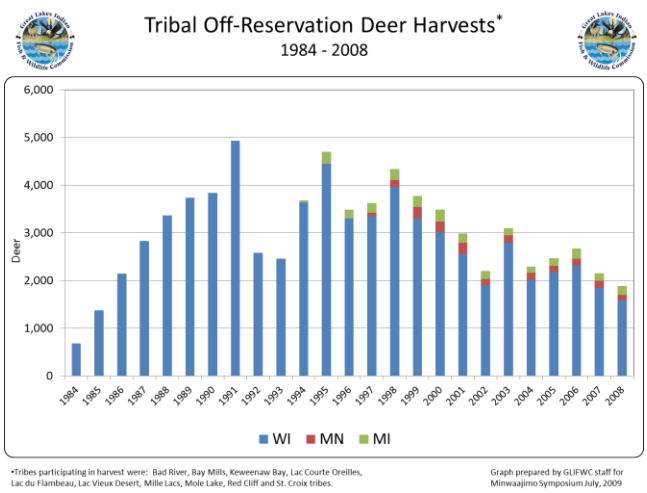
Note: Tribal harvest based on commercial harvest reports from Bad River, Red Cliff, Keweenaw Bay, Bay Mills , Sault St. Marie, and Grand Portage netters

Figure 7



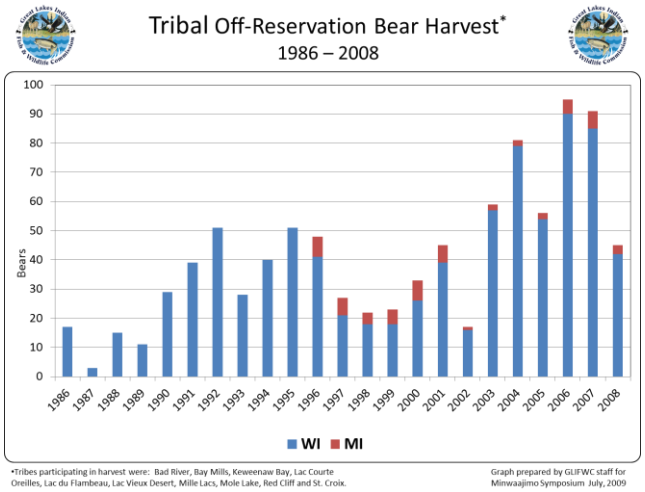
Note: Tribal harvest based on commercial harvest reports from Bad River, Red Cliff, Keweenaw Bay, Bay Mills, Sault St. Marie, and Grand Portage netters.

Figure 8



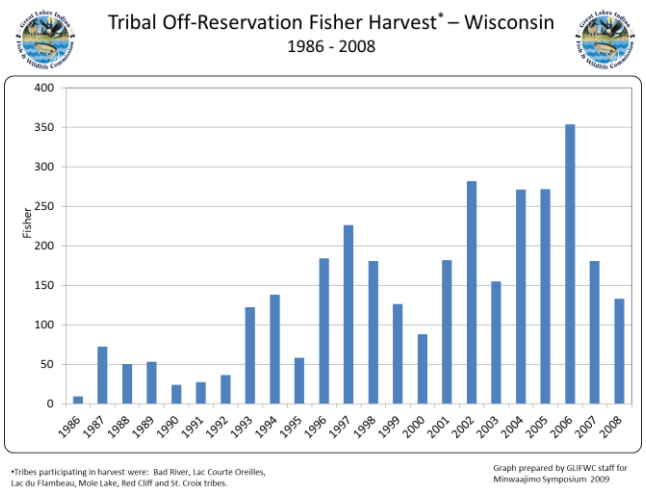
Note: Tribes participating in harvest were: Bad River, Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Vieux Desert, Mille Lacs, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix tribes.

Figure 9



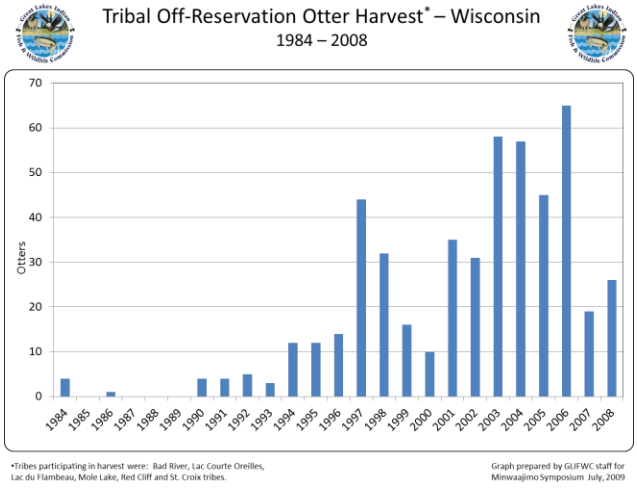
Note: Tribes participating in harvest were: Bad River, Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Vieux Desert, Mille Lacs, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix

Figure 10



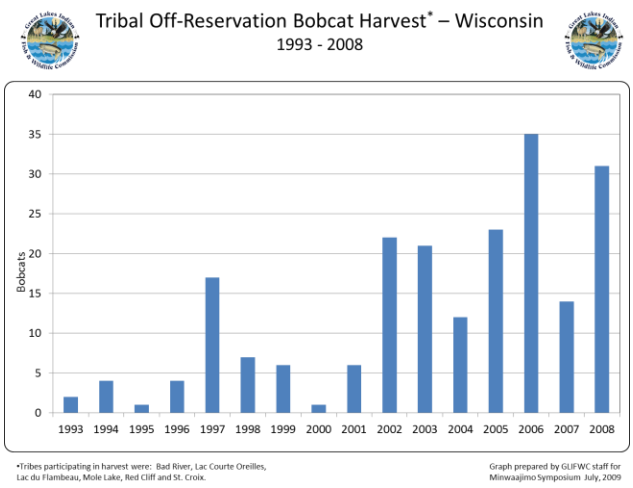
Note: Tribes participating in harvest were: Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix tribes.

Figure 11



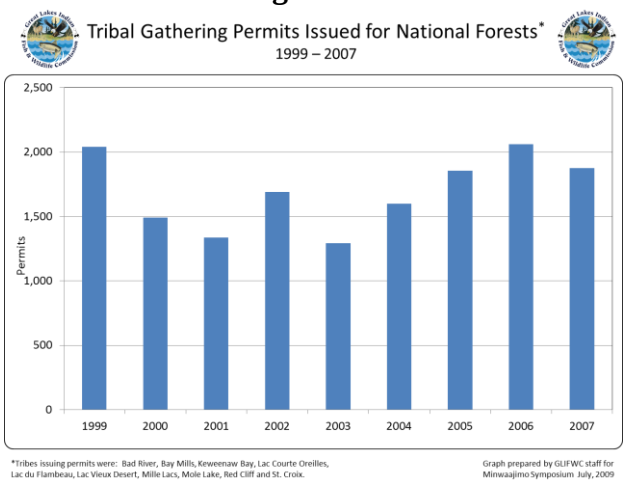
Note: Tribes participating in harvest were: Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix tribes.

Figure 12



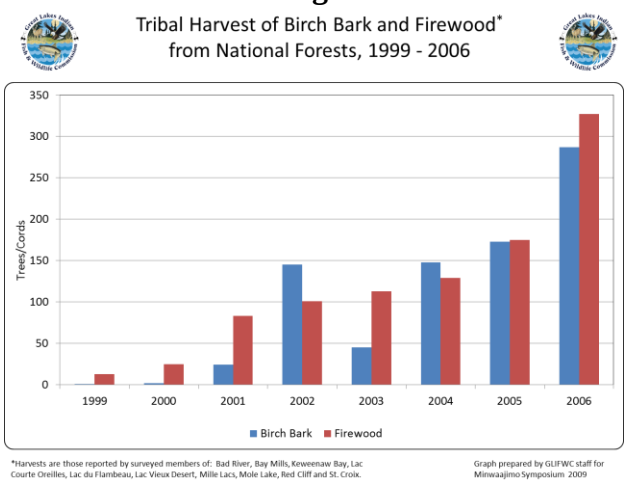
Note: Tribes participating in harvest were: Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix tribes.

Figure 13



Note: Tribes issuing permits were: Bad River, Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Vieux Desert, Mille Lacs, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix.

Figure 14



Note: Harvests are those reported by surveyed members of: Bad River, Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Vieux Desert, Mille Lacs, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix.