

## The Bad River Reservation

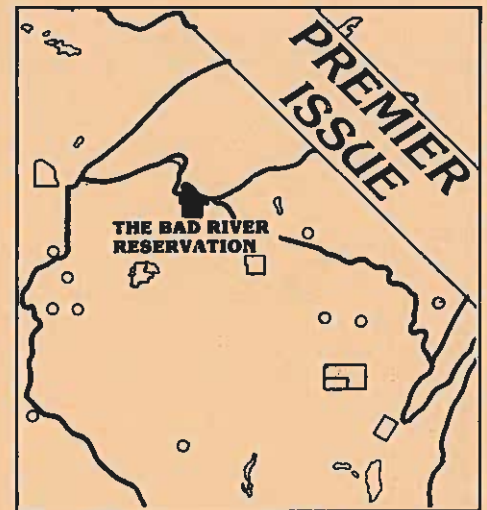
The Great Lakes Indian Fisheries Commission is located at Odanah on the Bad River Reservation in northern Wisconsin. Bad River is one of six Lake Superior Chippewa (Ojibway) Reservations in Wisconsin.

The Bad River Reservation is the largest of the Wisconsin-based Chippewa Reservations. There are nearly 125,000 acres within the boundaries and about 17 miles of Lake Superior shoreline. The Bad River, from which the reservation gets its name, flows through Old Odanah on its route to the famous Kakagon Sloughs and Lake Superior.

The Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs cover about 12 square miles and are an excellent source of both wild rice and fishing. The sloughs are included on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks for their importance as a unique natural site. The reservation also has a few small businesses and a lumber mill operations.

According to a recent GLIFC profile on Treaty fisheries, the Bad River commercial fishery is relatively small. It consists of a spring fishery for walleye in tributaries to the Lake and a limited Lake Superior fishery.

The Bad River fisheries program includes the operation of a walleye hatchery and the employment of a fisheries biologist. For more information write *Fred Vande Venter, Bad River Tribal Offices, P.O. Box 39, Odanah, WI 54861* or call 715-682-9119.



# geego-ikay

GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

VOLUME 1

DECEMBER 1983

## INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

### COMMISSION DECIDES ON PERMANENT HOME

The Great Lakes Indian Fisheries Commission began operations in June of 1982. The idea of an inter-tribal commission grew out of the realization that tribal fisheries on the Great Lakes were being overlooked by regional and national resources.

Under a "Self Determination (PL 93-638) contract with Red Cliff acting as fiscal agent, a minimal staff of Director, Biologist and part-time secretary began work. Their initial charge was to establish an inter-tribal structure that would enhance tribal abilities to participate in all aspects of fisheries management on the Great Lakes.

GLIFC is modeled after similar inter-tribal commissions, primarily those in the Pacific Northwest. The commission consists of six tribes which border Lake Superior. In Minnesota there's Grand Portage and Fond du Lac; in Wisconsin there's Red Cliff and Bad River; and in Michigan there's Keweenaw Bay and Bay Mills.

The focus of the first sixteen months of operation has been the development of organizational documents, biological studies, contacts with other fisheries manage-

ment organizations, work with the Voigt Inter-Tribal Task Force, and staffing.

In October of this year the staff was increased to seven. In November the GLIFC staff moved from temporary offices in Red Cliff to the new commission headquarters at Odanah on the Bad River Reservation.

With the recent court decision reaffirming inland off-reservation hunting and fishing rights a considerable amount of time and energy has gone into coordination efforts with the Voigt Inter-Tribal Task Force. In November at a joint meeting, a proposal to create the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission moved closer to reality. Efforts to create organizational documents and funding are continuing.

GLIFC has also completed a number of biological reports. These include a report of "Potential yield of major fish stocks in western Lake Superior, Lake Trout Stocking Patterns in the Upper Great Lakes," an assessment of tribal fisheries management needs, a general description of Great Lakes Treaty Fisheries, and a summary of technical data pertinent to Great Lakes Tribal fisheries management.

The concern over lake trout stocking patterns in Treaty-ceded waters was brought before the Great Lakes Fishery Commission at their November meeting in Ann Arbor. Jim Addis, Wisconsin DNR, brought it to the floor where it was referred to the Lakes Committee for further discussion.

Additional activities include a data collection program for Grand Portage and Keweenaw Bay, participation in the evaluation of Lake Trout stocking in Wisconsin waters pursuant to Red Cliff-Wisconsin fishery management agreement; review of plans for harbor dredging and pulp mill development from Treaty fishery perspective, participation in the Lake Superior Lake Trout Technical Committee, and continued response to tribal requests regarding lake trout hatchery potential, walleye rearing techniques, lake trout harvest restrictions, and other similar requests.

Most recent development has been in assembling an information plan to communicate better with the public about Treaty fishing activity. This newsletter and a new brochure are now available. If groups would like presentations GLIFC will provide speakers.

# NOVEMBER GLIFC MEETING

Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Proposed

In a joint meeting with the Voigt Inter-Tribal Task Force a proposal to expand the Commission to include inland fish and wildlife was received favorably.

Once details are worked out, funding secured, and okay's are given by each tribe, an expanded commission staff would administer projects for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Under the current proposal the expanded commission would be comprised of representatives from both the existing Fisheries Commission and from the inland Chippewa Tribes impacted by the Voigt Decision.

Attending the meeting was John Bushman who gave assurances that he would assist in finding funds for Commission operations. Bushman is the Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Trust Responsibility, BIA, Washington Office. Other BIA representatives were Nancy Cobe and Jim Sansaver, Minneapolis area, and Chuck McCuddy, Great Lakes Agency.

## Other GLIFC Business

Commissioners present for the regular GLIFC meeting were Jim Hendrickson, Grand Portage; Vernon Stone, Bad River; Jim St. Arnold, Keweenaw Bay; and Joe Bresette, Red Cliff. Staff attending were Henry Buffalo, Pete Jacobson, Tom Busiahn, Lynn Spreutels and Walt Bresette. The following is a summary of some of the meeting highlights.

Buffalo reported on the concern found in a recent GLIFC report on trout stocking patterns which appear



**GLIFC Commissioners who attended the November meeting at Odanah, (L-R): Jim St. Arnold, Keweenaw Bay; Joe Bresette, Red Cliff; Henry Buffalo, Executive Administrator; Jim Hendrickson, Grand Portage; Vernon Stone, Bad River. Not attending were Bill Houle, Fond du Lac and Wade Teeple, Bay Mills. Also, Joe Corbine has since been elected tribal chairman and will now be the Bad River Commissioner.**

to be lowering in treaty fishing areas. The joint U.S.—Canada Great Lakes Fishery Commission, who is responsible for lake trout management, was asked to explain these shifts in stocking of lake trout. GLIFC was asked to attend a November meeting in Ann Arbor to further discuss these concerns.

In other action the Commissioners agreed to ask each tribe to make an annual contribution of \$500.00 for a separate lobbying effort. It was stated that having a Washington contact who knew the system was valuable in the past and should be renewed.

A recent law enforcement seminar sponsored by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission received good reviews. There was discussion about GLIFC sponsoring similar workshops. There

was also talk about a possible "Fisheries Symposium" here in the Great Lakers area in the near future.

Busiahn and Jacobson reported on a number of reports and projects they're working on. Busiahn also pointed out the problems he saw in a recent Great Lakes Fishery Commission report entitled "A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries."

The main concern was that none of the Great Lakes Tribes were involved or even consulted in the preparation of this report. Additional comment to the authors of the report was urged.

The GLIFC meeting, held in Odanah on the Bad River Reservation, was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting is set for January 17, 1984 at Bay Mills.

## THE VOIGT TASK FORCE

### INLAND BIOLOGIST TO BE HOUSED AT GLIFC

The Voigt Task Force, which is looking at management plans and enforcement options for off-reservation inland fish and wildlife, has hired two biologists.

Neil Kmiecik (kee-mi-sek), who holds a masters degree in Fisheries from UW-Stevens Point, began work for the Task Force in mid-December. Kmiecik is a Standing Rock Sioux from Fort Yates, North Dakota.

Also hired and scheduled to begin work in January is Jonathan Gilbert, originally from New York. Gilbert is a candidate for a master of science degree in Wildlife Management from Michigan State University.

At the December 21 meeting the Task Force voted to house the biologists with GLIFC on the Bad River Reservation. GLIFC has two biologists focusing on the fisheries on the Great Lakes.

**GEEGO-İKAY** is an Ojibway word which translates to *fishing*. It is the name for this new newsletter published by the Great Lakes Indian Fisheries Commission. *Geego-ikay* will be published every two months with special editions when needed.

**GEEGO-İKAY** is intended to highlight some of the activities of the Commission and of Tribal fishermen. Ideas for stories are encouraged.

If you would like to receive the newsletter regularly then let us know—also, let us know what you think of it. Send your comments, suggestions or requests to GLIFC GEEGO-İKAY, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 or call Walt Bresette at 715/682-6619.

**THE COMMISSIONERS**

The Great Lakes Indian Fisheries Commission is an inter-tribal organization representing six tribes in three states. The Commissioners are the Chairman of each of these tribes. They include Jim Hendrickson, Grand Portage and Bill Houle, Fond du Lac, from Minnesota; Joe Bresette, Red Cliff and Joe Corbine, Bad River from Wisconsin; and Jim St. Arnold, Keweenaw Bay and Wade Teeple, Bay Mills from Michigan.

The Commission meets bimonthly with headquarters located at the old St. Mary's School in Odanah on the Bad River Reservation. The next Commission meeting is set for January 17 and will be held at the Bay Mills Indian Community, Route 1, Box 313, Brimley, MI 49715 - Phone 906-248-3241.

**STAFF****Henry Buffalo, Jr.,  
Executive Administrator**

Henry was one of the founders of GLIFC and served as the interim director until his appointment as Executive Administrator. He previously was the Red Cliff Tribal Attorney and currently serves on the Tribal Council. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from UW-Milwaukee, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School and is a member of the Bar of Wisconsin and the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Wisconsin. Henry is married, has four children and is a member of the Red Cliff Tribe where he currently resides.

**Mary Kauppila,  
Deputy Administrator**

Mary began with GLIFC in November of this year. Previous to her employment with GLIFC she was administrative assistant with the Keweenaw Bay ANA program. She was also the program liaison for the Michigan Inter-Tribal Council. She is a graduate of Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Mary is a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and has been Treasurer of the Tribal Council since February of 1983.

**Lynn Spreutels, Clerk/Typist**

Lynn also began with GLIFC in November. She previously worked for both the District Attorney and the Child Support offices in Ashland, Wisconsin. She has an Associates Degree in Secretarial Science from the Ashland Campus of the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical Institute. Lynn is originally from Mellen, Wisconsin, is single, and currently resides in Ashland.

**Denise Neveaux,  
Executive Secretary**

Denise was hired as Executive Secretary in November. She has had extensive secretarial work with the Bad River Tribe of which she is an enrolled member. She is a graduate of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical Institute in Ashland. Denise resides on the Bad River Reservation near Bear Trap.

**Tom Busiahn, Biologist**

Tom began in November to head up the GLIFC Biology Department. Previous employment includes the

North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, and most recently he set up and ran the Red Cliff Fisheries program. He is chairman of the Native Peoples Fisheries Committee of the American Fisheries Society, and holds a Master of Science Degree in Fisheries Science from South Dakota State University. Tom is married, has two children and enjoys gardening, canoeing, cross country skiing and bicycling.

**Peter C. Jacobson,  
Biologist**

Peter has been employed by GLIFC as a fisheries biologist since September 1982. His area of expertise is in the population dynamics of Great Lakes fishes. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries at the University of Minnesota and a Master of Science degree in Fisheries at Michigan State University. Peter resides in Washburn, Wisconsin, and is married with one child.

**Walt Bresette,  
Information Officer**

Walt began in November to set up the GLIFC Public Information Office. He is a trained commercial artist and has been working in public relations and media for the past ten years. Prior to GLIFC he was the Station Manager and News Director for WOJB FM, a 100,000 watt public radio station on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation. He is an enrolled member of the Red Cliff Reservation where he currently resides.

**Great Lakes Indian  
Fisheries Commissioners****Member Tribes**

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P.O. Box 39  
Odanah, WI 54861-(715)682-4212

Wade Teeple  
Bay Mills Indian Community  
Rt. 1, Box 313  
Brimley, MI 49715-(906)248-3241

Bill Houle  
Fond du Lac Tribe  
Tribal Office  
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Cloquet, MN 55720-(218)879-4593

Jim Hendrickson  
Grand Portage Band  
P.O. Box 428  
Grand Portage, MN 55605-(218)475-2279

Jim St. Arnold  
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community  
Tribal Center Building  
Rt. 1  
Baraga, MI 49908-(906)353-6623

Joe Bresette  
Red Cliff Band of Lake  
Superior Chippewa  
P.O. Box 529  
Bayfield, WI 54814-(715)779-5805

**TROUT STOCKING  
PRACTICES**

The results of an ongoing study of lake trout stocking in the Great Lakes will be the feature article in the next issue of *Geego-ikay*.

Preliminary findings are showing a steady decline in stocking treaty fishing areas. GLIFC has had discussions with various organizations regarding this trend and hopefully will have additional news in the next issue.

In the meantime, contact Tom Busiahn or Pete Jacobson here at GLIFC if you have any questions.

## NEWS FROM THE FISH (THINK)TANK



...In future issues of the Newsletter, we will try to provide updates on all significant happenings in the fisheries, including information on catches, markets, fish populations, regulations, etc. Anyone who has information along these lines is encouraged to pass it along to GLIFC for publication in the newsletter.

### RED CLIFF CHARGES LICENSE FEE

...Red Cliff appears to have made a smooth transition to a commercial fishing license fee system with the start of the license year on December 1. Money collected from the fees is earmarked for development and enhancement of the fishery, including marketing initiatives...

### STOCKS UP, \$'s DOWN

...Whitefish stocks are expected to remain at high levels throughout the

three upper Great Lakes in 1984, meaning that supply will again exceed demand, and summer prices will be very low...

### HERRING: A TROUT DELICACY

...Encouraging news from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: The rapid recovery of herring stocks is continuing in western Lake Superior. Even though herring prices have been too low to make them worth fishing, they do provide a good source of food for lake trout...



### TREATY FISHERIES INFORMATION

*GLIFC will be a distribution center for a variety of public information relating to tribal fishing and the Great Lakes fishery. This newsletter is only one method of getting the information out. We also have brochures, biological reports, bibliographies, and are planning slide shows for public presentation. If you would like more information about the Great Lakes Indian Fisheries Commission, write GLIFC, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 or call 715/682-6619.*

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Indian Fisheries Commission  
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Odanah, WI 54861**



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