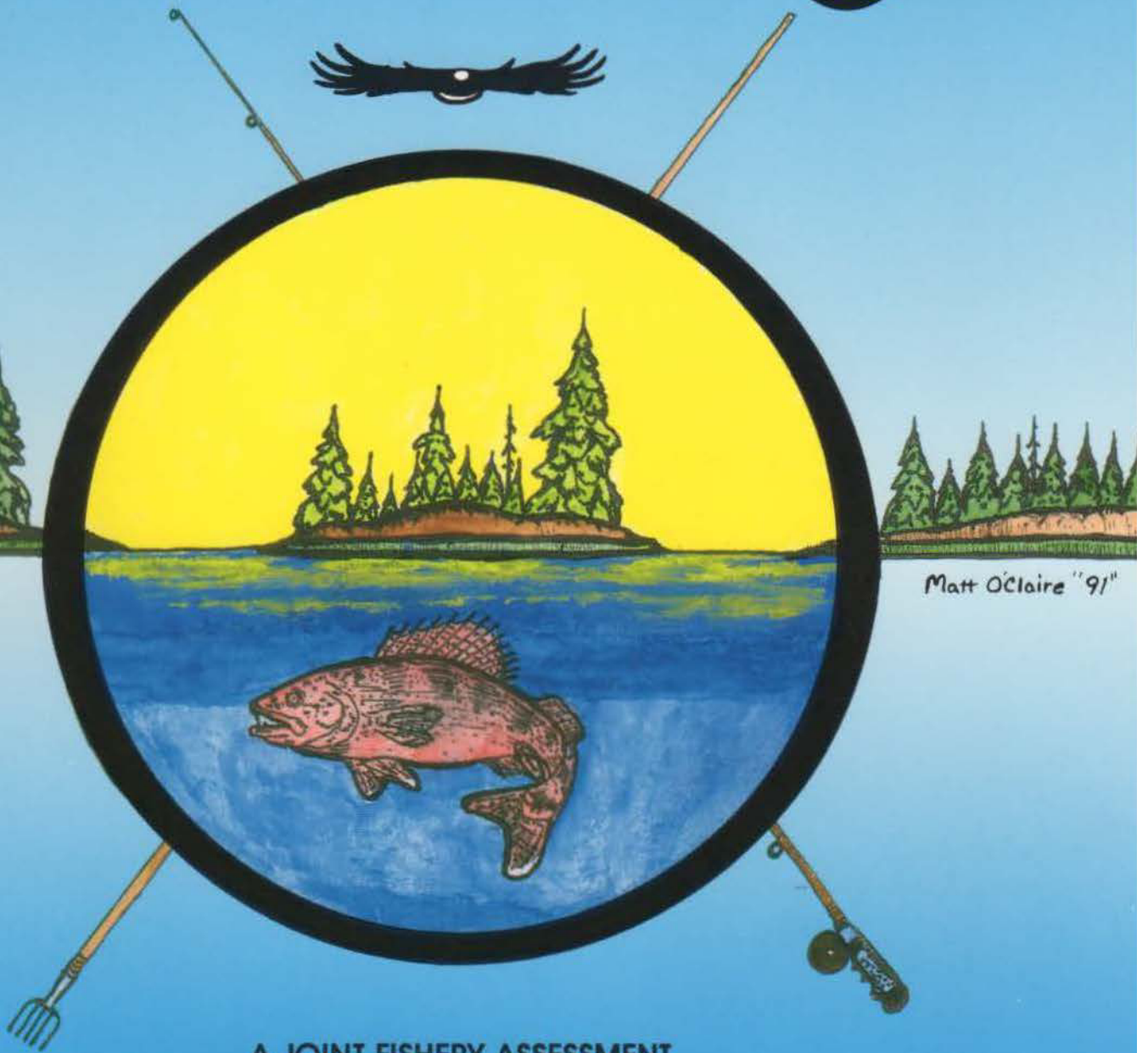


CASTING LIGHT UPON THE WATERS



Matt O'Claire '91'

A JOINT FISHERY ASSESSMENT
OF THE WISCONSIN CEDED TERRITORY



Casting Light Upon the Waters:
A Joint Fishery Assessment of the Wisconsin Ceded Territory
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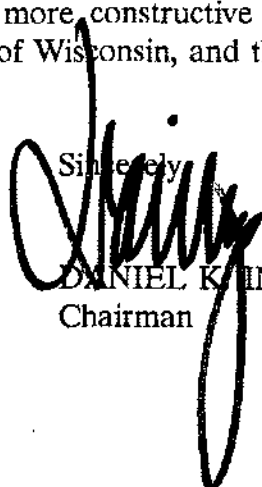
Controversies surrounding the exercise of Indian treaty fishing rights are not new, and they have been successfully resolved in other states. Thus, when the tribal governmental leadership of the six Chippewa tribes of Wisconsin approached the Select Committee on Indian Affairs for assistance in addressing the violence that has erupted at the boat landings for the past several years during spring fishing season, I met with representatives of the President of the United States, the Wisconsin congressional delegation, the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the leadership of the Wisconsin state legislature, the Wisconsin Attorney General, and the elected leadership of the six tribes. What emerged from those meetings was the commonly-shared perception that the fires of controversy were being fueled by a campaign of misinformation regarding the impact of Indian treaty fishing on the fishery resource. Accordingly, working with my Wisconsin colleagues in the House and Senate, we secured an appropriation of Federal funds to enable a joint Federal, State and Tribal assessment of the fishery resource in the State of Wisconsin.

Applying state of the art methods, the results of this jointly-conducted assessment confirm that fish populations are not being overexploited in most cases and that current fish populations meet or exceed agreed-upon population goals. The assessment was conducted by the governmental entities with jurisdictional responsibility for the fishery resource, and there is consensus as to their findings and conclusions.

Working together, these governments have forged a mechanism for informing the public of the truth about the status of the Wisconsin fishery resource. Working together, these governments can continue and expand upon their joint monitoring and assessment efforts to assure the integrated management of fishery resources in the State of Wisconsin.

I wish to thank all of the parties who participated in this assessment. I believe that in so doing, you have laid the foundation for new and more constructive relationships between the governments of the United States, the State of Wisconsin, and the Chippewa tribes.

Sincerely,



DANIEL K. INOUE
Chairman

