



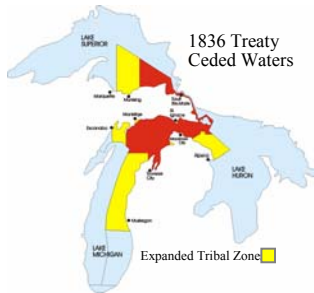
The 2000 Great Lakes Consent Decree

Cooperation with Native Americans



The Upper Great Lakes provide some of the most productive freshwater fisheries in North America. The 1836 Treaty waters typically yield 7 million (mil) lbs of lake whitefish, 1.5 mil lbs of lake trout and 4.5 mil lbs of trout and pacific salmon annually.

The 2000 US vs Michigan Great Lakes Consent Decree allocates fishery resources among five Tribes and the State of Michigan within the 1836 Treaty waters until the year 2020 and replaces an earlier 1985 decree.



Now Tribes can fish in all treaty waters, catch a larger portion of the overall harvest, and harvest most of the commercial species. MI anglers will harvest most of the sport species.

Lake trout restoration is a central component of the Decree. To achieve lake



trout restoration goals, 14 million feet of Tribal gill net effort was reduced and

exchanged for trap net gear provided by MI after the state



spent 17\$ mil to buy out most of their licensed trap net fishers.

Extensive cooperation among the Tribes, State, and Federal fishery agencies is an essential component of the Decree. A Technical Fisheries Committee applies statistical catch-at-age models to establish harvest limits for 17 whitefish and 9 lake trout management units, and acts on all other biological issues of the Decree.

As a party to the Decree, the Service's commitment includes: technical assistance in assessing the status of fish stocks, establishing harvest limits and evaluating fisheries; increased stocking levels for lake trout in the 1836 Treaty waters; effective control of parasitic sea lamprey in cooperation with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada; and advising the Departments of Interior and Justice regarding the implementation of the Decree.

Fish and Wildlife Service Stations supporting the 2000 Consent Decree
Fishery Resources Offices - Alpena, MI, Ashland, WI, and Green Bay, WI
National Fish Hatcheries - Allegheny, PA, Iron River, WI, Hiawatha, MI, Jordan River, MI, Pendarfs Creek MI, and Saratoga, WY
Sea Lamprey Control - Marquette and Ludington, MI



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