

**Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians**  
**2015 Inland Harvest Summary**



**Inland Fish and Wildlife Department**

In 2015, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians issued 49,318 individual permits for hunting, fishing, gathering, and trapping within the 1836 Ceded Territory to 4,361 tribal members. The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians maintains mandatory harvest reporting requirements for all members who exercise the Tribe's treaty rights. At the time when this report was developed, the Inland Fish and Wildlife Department (IFWD) had received and processed 1,736 harvest reports. Throughout this report, uncertainty in estimated harvest is quantified by bootstrap resampling of the observed data 5000 times.

### **2015 Inland Waters Fish Harvest**

In 2015, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians issued 4,361 Inland Fishing Licenses. IFWD has received harvest reports from 39.8% (1,736) of those license holders. Approximately 42.5% of those reported fishing effort in 2015. When developing harvest estimates IFWD assumed the entire 42.5% who reported effort had equal effort for each individual species. It is also likely that some of the reported harvest was actually Great Lakes harvest. Although smelt is reported here in gallons, given high variation in reported harvest (wide confidence interval) it is possible that some reports listed the raw number of smelt caught.

**Table 1. 2015 Inland Fish Harvest**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Reported Harvest</b>	<b>Mean Harvest</b>	<b>Estimated Harvest</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
Brook Trout	2540	3.44	6380.7	[4549.6,8376.8]
Brown Trout	286	0.39	718.5	[433.6,1080.4]
Rainbow Trout	810	1.10	2034.8	[1410.6,2757.4]
Chinook Salmon	264	0.36	663.2	[340.7,1042.3]
Coho Salmon	154	0.21	386.9	[187.8,655.7]
Pink Salmon	94	0.13	236.1	[50.2,554.5]
Northern Pike	2526	3.42	6345.6	[4894,8205.7]
Muskellunge	85	0.12	213.5	[43.4,454.2]
Walleye	6025	8.15	15135.4	[12207.2,18434.7]
Perch	24279	32.85	60991.2	[47549.2,77432.2]
Bluegill	10361	14.02	26027.8	[20043.6,33197.2]
Sucker	418	0.57	1050.1	[564,1624.9]
Smallmouth Bass	1276	1.73	3205.4	[2257.6,4336.3]
Largemouth Bass	799	1.08	2007.2	[1358.7,2767.3]
Smelt*	173	0.23	434.6	[266,644.3]

\*Smelt is reported in gallons

**Table 2. 2015 Black Lake Sturgeon Harvest**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Length (in)</b>	<b>Weight (lbs)</b>	<b>Harvest Method</b>
5/25/2015	68.5	88.5	Spear

## ***2015 Turtle Harvest***

In 2015 the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians had no members report any turtle harvest.

## ***2015 Frog Harvest***

In 2015 approximately 0.1% of license holders reported pursuing frogs. With 22 frogs reported harvested, each member harvested an average of 11 frogs. It is estimated that 51.6 frogs were harvested during the 2015 license year (95% bootstrap confidence interval from 11 to 104 frogs).

## ***2015 Small Game Harvest***

In 2015, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians issued 4,067 small game licenses with 42.6% percent of those license holders reporting. Hunter participation rates varied widely between target species. Approximately 31.7% of license holders reported hunting ruffed grouse, 10.6% reported hunting squirrel, 7.6% reported hunting snowshoe hare, 7.3% reported hunting cottontail rabbit, 2.2% reported hunting sharp-tailed grouse, 1.6% reported hunting pheasant, and 0.6% reported hunting quail.

**Table 4. 2015 Small Game Harvest**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Reported Harvest</b>	<b>Mean Harvest</b>	<b>Estimated Harvest</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
Ruffed Grouse	2902	5.29	6806.5	[6040.7,7622.1]
Sharp-tailed Grouse	24	0.62	56.3	[27.3,94.1]
Pheasant	53	1.89	124.3	[48.5,222]
Quail	11	1.10	25.8	[0,61.3]
Squirrel	1532	8.33	3593.2	[2727.6,4789.3]
Cottontail Rabbit	465	3.66	1090.6	[765.3,1474]
Snowshoe Hare	490	3.71	1149.3	[867.4,1458]

## ***2015 Turkey Harvest***

In 2015 the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians issued 1,653 spring turkey and 2,716 fall turkey licenses. Hunters in the spring season had a limit of two bearded-only birds, and hunters in the fall season had a limit of two either-sex birds. Approximately 11.5% of those reporting hunted spring turkey and 10% hunted fall turkey.

**Table 7. 2015 spring and fall turkey harvest**

<b>Season</b>	<b>Reported Harvest</b>	<b>Mean Harvest</b>	<b>Estimated Harvest</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
Spring	70	0.35	164.2	[125.8,204.8]
Fall	59	0.34	138.4	[98,183.5]

## ***2015 Furbearer Harvest***

In 2015, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe members had relatively low participation (7.9%) in furbearer harvest compared to other areas such as small game hunting or deer hunting. When developing these estimates, IFWD assumed that the 7.9% of members who reporting trapping expended equal effort for all listed species.

**Table 3. 2015 Sault Tribe Furbearer Harvest**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Reported Harvest</b>	<b>Mean Harvest</b>	<b>Estimated Harvest</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
Beaver	328	2.39	769.3	[357.7,1406.7]
Muskrat	926	6.76	2171.9	[1068.1,3556.1]
Mink	62	0.45	145.4	[46.7,277.7]
Red Fox	20	0.15	46.9	[18.7,84.6]
Gray Fox	0	-	-	-
Coyote	311	2.27	729.4	[285.6,1319.1]
Skunk	49	0.36	114.9	[47.3,202.9]
Raccoon	155	1.13	363.5	[202.2,567.7]

In addition to this estimated furbearer harvest, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe members harvested and registered 53 American marten, 38 fisher, 22 river otter and 23 bobcats.

## ***2015 Migratory Bird Harvest***

In 2015, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians issued 4,067 migratory bird licenses with 42.6% percent of those license holders reporting. Hunter participation was low with rates varying between target species. Approximately 0.06% of license holders reported hunting Virginia rail, 4.6% reported hunting woodcock, 0.06% reported hunting snipe, 0.5% reported hunting mourning dove, and 0.1% reported hunting coot. No hunters reported pursuing sora or common gallinule (moorhen) during the 2015 season. Table 5 summarizes the reported and estimated harvest for migratory bird species.

**Table 5. 2015 Sault Tribe Migratory Bird Harvest**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Reported Harvest</b>	<b>Mean Harvest</b>	<b>Estimated Harvest</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
Virginia Rail	8	8	18.8	[0,48]
Sora	0	-	-	-
Woodcock	260	3.25	609.8	[421.4,832.6]
Snipe	8	8	18.8	[0,48]
Mourning Dove	18	2	42.2	[12,85.1]
Common Gallinule (Moorhen)	0	-	-	-
Coot	10	5	23.5	[4.3,56]

## 2015 Waterfowl Harvest

Approximately 7.8% of hunters reported pursuing waterfowl during the 2015 season. When developing harvest estimates for waterfowl, IFWD assumed the entire 7.8% who reported effort had equal effort across species. Table 6 summarizes the reported and estimated harvest for major waterfowl species.

**Table 6. 2015 Sault Tribe Waterfowl Harvest**

Species	Reported Harvest	Mean Harvest	Estimated Harvest	95% Confidence Interval
Mallard	492	3.62	1154.0	[870.2,1484.6]
Black Duck	44	0.32	103.2	[41.8,194.3]
Gadwall	24	0.18	56.3	[14.3,117.3]
Blue-winged Teal	67	0.49	157.1	[71.3,258.2]
Green-winged Teal	98	0.72	229.9	[133.4,349.3]
Canvasback	15	0.11	35.2	[2.9,84.5]
Redhead	63	0.46	147.8	[53.4,268.8]
Wood Duck	194	1.43	455.0	[311.6,616]
Lesser Scaup	9	0.07	21.1	[2.3,51.4]
Bufflehead	111	0.82	260.3	[112,451.9]
Pintail	5	0.04	11.7	[0,30.7]
Canada Goose	474	3.49	1111.7	[814.3,1457.2]
Snow Goose	4	0.03	9.4	[0,22.3]

## 2015 Big Game Harvest

### Elk

In 2015 the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians issued one either sex elk tag and one antlerless elk tag. One bull elk was harvested on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and one calf elk was harvested on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### Bear

**Table 8. 2015 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Bear Permits Issued and Bear Harvest by Management Unit**

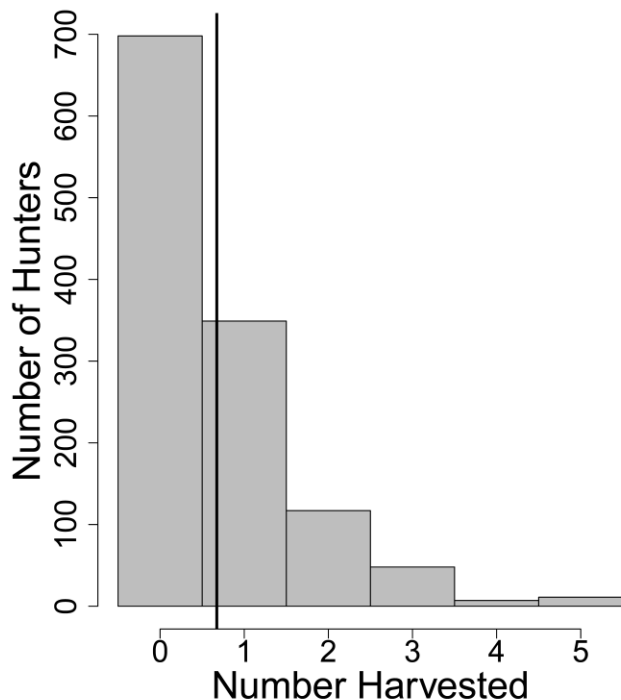
BMU	Permits Issued	Total Harvest
Baraga	9	0
Drummond	1	1
Gwinn	59	9
Newberry	203	47
Baldwin	11	2
Gladwin	1	0
Red Oak	97	22

## Whitetail Deer

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians issued 4,009 deer licenses in 2015. At the time that this report was developed, IFWD had received 1,734 harvest reports back or about 58%. Approximately 72.1% (1,251) of those reporting actually hunted deer. The total estimated harvest for 2015 is 1,949 deer (95% confidence interval from 1,791.3 to 2,107.7 deer).

This estimate is based on a mean harvest per hunter of 0.68 deer. Actual harvest per hunter varies from 0 to 5 deer. Approximately 27.9% of our reporting hunters did not hunt deer in 2015. Many hunters (approximately 55.2%, or 1,595.3) that pursued deer in 2015 were unsuccessful in their efforts (Figure 1). Approximately 29.5% (853.1 hunters) of hunters harvested 1 deer, 9.8% (284.4 hunters) harvested 2 deer, and 3.9% (113.3 hunters) harvested 3 deer (Figure 1). Therefore, although all hunters can receive 5 harvest tags, very few members who hunted deer actually harvested 5 (1% or 27.7 hunters), or even 4 (0.6% or 18.5 hunters), deer (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. The estimated number of hunters harvesting a given number of deer in 2015. The mean harvest per hunter is plotted as a vertical line for reference.**



In 2015, an estimated 45.7% (95% confidence interval from 42.5% to 49%) of harvested deer were bucks.

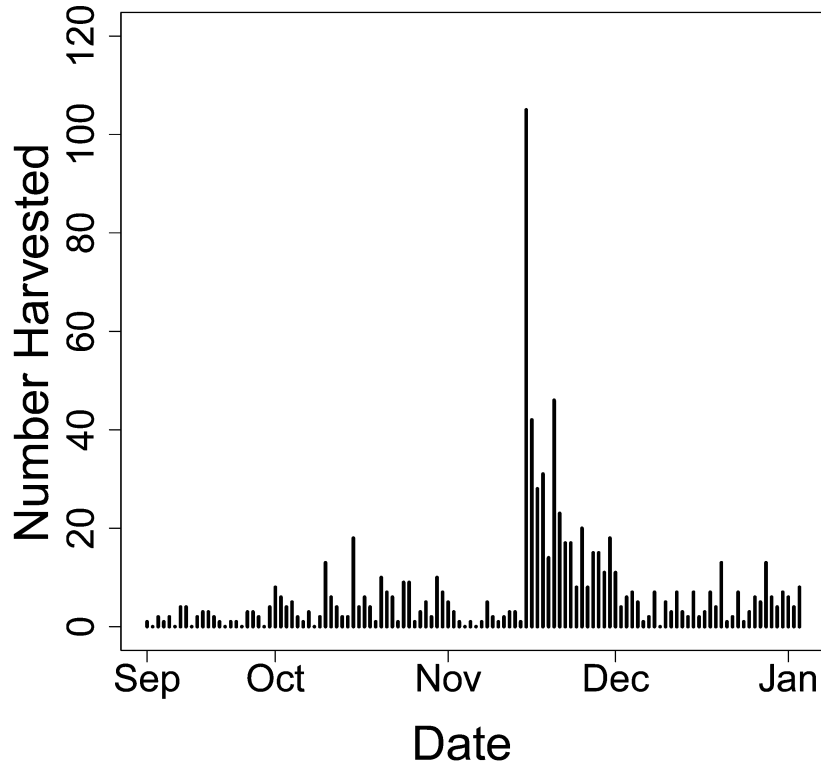
Overall harvest decreased during the 2015 deer season, with the largest declines in the Upper Peninsula. The geographic distribution of Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians' 2015 harvest by county is listed in Table 9.

**Table 9. 2015 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Deer Harvest by County**

<b>County</b>	<b>Reported Harvest</b>	<b>Percent of Harvest</b>	<b>Estimated Harvest</b>	<b>Percent Change from 2014</b>	<b>Harvest per mile<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Estimated doe harvest</b>
Alger	25	3.0	58.0	-34.10	0.06	23.2
Alpena	0	0.0	0.0	-100.00	0.00	0.0
Antrim	4	0.5	9.3	-41.42	0.02	7.0
Benzie	8	1.0	18.6	-12.13	0.06	9.3
Charlevoix	12	1.4	27.8	12.98	0.07	18.6
Cheboygan	100	11.9	232.0	6.30	0.32	116.0
Chippewa	128	15.2	297.0	-22.96	0.19	147.3
Clare	3	0.4	7.0	-50.57	0.01	2.3
Crawford	4	0.5	9.3	-24.68	0.02	2.3
Delta	85	10.1	197.2	-41.95	0.17	111.4
Emmet	57	6.8	132.3	23.17	0.28	76.6
Grand Traverse	6	0.7	13.9	-12.13	0.03	7.0
Ionia	2	0.2	4.6	-34.10	0.01	4.6
Isabella	5	0.6	11.6	229.52	0.02	11.6
Kalkaska	22	2.6	51.0	93.32	0.09	25.5
Kent	3	0.4	7.0	-1.14	0.01	4.6
Lake	6	0.7	13.9	-1.14	0.02	7.0
Leelanau	9	1.1	20.9	69.47	0.06	13.9
Luce	25	3.0	58.0	-54.86	0.06	30.2
Mackinac	101	12.0	234.3	-65.24	0.23	105.5
Manistee	6	0.7	13.9	-56.06	0.03	9.3
Marquette	7	0.8	16.2	-38.49	0.01	9.3
Mason	20	2.4	46.4	38.75	0.09	32.5
Mecosta	5	0.6	11.6	-52.93	0.02	11.6
Missaukee	6	0.7	13.9	-39.17	0.02	7.0
Montcalm	4	0.5	9.3	-34.10	0.01	2.3
Montmorency	4	0.5	9.3	427.24	0.02	4.6
Muskegon	6	0.7	13.9	58.17	0.03	4.6
Newaygo	22	2.6	51.0	-0.01	0.06	32.5
Oceana	22	2.6	51.0	141.65	0.09	25.5
Osceola	3	0.4	7.0	-50.57	0.01	2.3
Oscoda	0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.0
Otsego	15	1.8	34.8	119.68	0.07	20.9
Ottawa	3	0.4	7.0	-1.14	0.01	2.3
Presque Isle	18	2.1	41.8	-5.10	0.06	30.2
Roscommon	8	1.0	18.6	50.64	0.04	9.3
Schoolcraft	73	8.7	169.4	-55.25	0.14	106.7
Wexford	13	1.5	30.2	31.81	0.05	25.5

Approximately 54.5% of the 2015 deer harvest took place in the month of November. Harvest in October and December accounted for 19.7% and 18.8% respectively. September and January harvest accounted for another 4.8% and 2.2% respectively. Most of the deer harvest took place in the first two weeks after the quiet period (51%, Figure 2).

Figure 2. The number of deer harvested by day throughout the 2015 season



### ***2015 Gathering Activities***

In 2015 approximately 5.4% of members reported gathering activities in the 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory. On federal, state, or private land members gathered acorns, balsam, basswood, beefsteak mushrooms, birchbark, blackberries, blueberries, blueberry root, rabbit feces, cedar, cedar bark, cedar boughs, chaga, chanterelle mushrooms, chokecherry, comfrey root, conifer boughs, cranberries, fern frond, fiddlehead fern, firewood, fruits, fungus mushrooms, ginger root, ground ivy, hazelnuts, juniper, Labrador leaves, leeks, lion's mane, lobster mushrooms, maple, maple sap, mint, mullein, mushrooms, morel mushrooms, oyster mushrooms, pine boughs, pine cones, Queen Anne's lace, raspberries, red willow, sage, saplings, spruce root, strawberries, strawberry root, stump mushrooms, sweet fern, sweet flag, sweet peas, sweetgrass, tobacco, wintergreen and yarrow.