

# GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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## • MEMBER TRIBES •

### MICHIGAN

Bay Mills Community  
Keweenaw Bay Community  
Lac Vieux Desert Band

### WISCONSIN

Bad River Band  
Lac Courte Oreilles Band  
Lac du Flambeau Band

### MINNESOTA

Fond du Lac Band  
Mille Lacs Band

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2020

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## Gunshot Incident on Little Saint Germain Lake, Vilas County, WI

### *Local Authorities and GLIFWC Enforcement Respond*

**Odanah, WI** – On the evening of May 2, 2020 at approximately 10:00 pm, tribal harvesters reported both harassment and eventually gunshots on Little Saint Germain Lake in Vilas County, Wisconsin. Local law enforcement and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) enforcement personnel responded to a local residence and boat landing. One individual was apprehended and arrested for being armed while intoxicated. The incident is currently under investigation by the Vilas County Sheriff's Department.

Hostile and violent acts of aggression, including rock throwing and racial slurs, occur during tribal spearfishing every year. Obstruction or harassment of individuals practicing their federally protected rights can lead to fines and even arrest.

“This is indeed a sign that we need to continue to educate the broader public about federally protected treaty rights. Tribal subsistence harvesting has been a tradition for generations, and these tribal fishermen were simply out harvesting to feed their communities,” said GLIFWC Executive Administrator Michael Isham.

A strict quota and regulatory system governs tribal spearfishing in the Ceded Territories. Through this process, tribes count every single fish that is speared during the spring season. GLIFWC and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources biologists work collaboratively throughout the year to assess fish populations and establish appropriate harvest levels for both State and Tribal fishermen.

GLIFWC is grateful for the local law enforcement and GLIFWC enforcement personnel that responded to the incident so promptly, helping to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission is an intertribal natural resource agency comprised of eleven member Ojibwe bands, located in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. GLIFWC works with its member bands to both manage and preserve off-reservation treaty reserved rights and resources. Please visit [www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org) for more information about GLIFWC.