

KBIC Fish Hatchery Mission Statement

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is the successor in interest of the L'Anse and Ontonagon Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, signatories to the 1842 Treaty with the Chippewa (7 Stat. 591), and the 1854 Treaty with the Chippewa (10 Stat. 1109). Our Integrated Resources Management Plan (IRMP; adopted February 12, 2003) vision is to *“live in harmony while enhancing and sustaining the resources of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for the Seventh Generation.”* The Natural Resources Department administers programs for KBIC on the L'Anse, Marquette, and Ontonagon reservations as well as the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan (1842 ceded territory) to achieve this vision. Our Fisheries Program's goal is to *“Facilitate sustainable harvest of fisheries resources within Lake Superior and 1842 Ceded Territory for Tribal members”*. Part of achieving this goal includes following a management plan which includes fish stocking.

Additional guidance is provided for with Our Wildlife Stewardship Plan (WSP; adopted December 18, 2014). The vision is to *“To support, honor, and respect mutual relationships between thriving native fish, wildlife, plant, and human communities by maintaining, enhancing, or restoring ecologically diverse networks of healthy wildlife populations and habitat.”* It is stressed within this document that non-native species of plants and animals can and often do out compete native species. It identifies the following goals and objectives relevant to our proposed project and consistent with BIA goals and objectives:

1. Develop a Non-native Management Plan to establish clear goals and actions that will control the encroachment of non-native species.
2. Work with other KBIC Departments and partners in State, Federal and Private organizations to enhance our ability to contribute to state and regional initiatives for controlling invasive species and promote native species.

The Fish Hatchery Program receives tribal and federal funding for its operation with Licensing monies, Parks and Wildlife and Hatchery monies through the Bureau of Indian Affairs and grants from agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Tribal Wildlife Grant) and USDA-NRCS (EQIP). Hatchery renovations continue to improve rearing success to help achieve fisheries program goals.

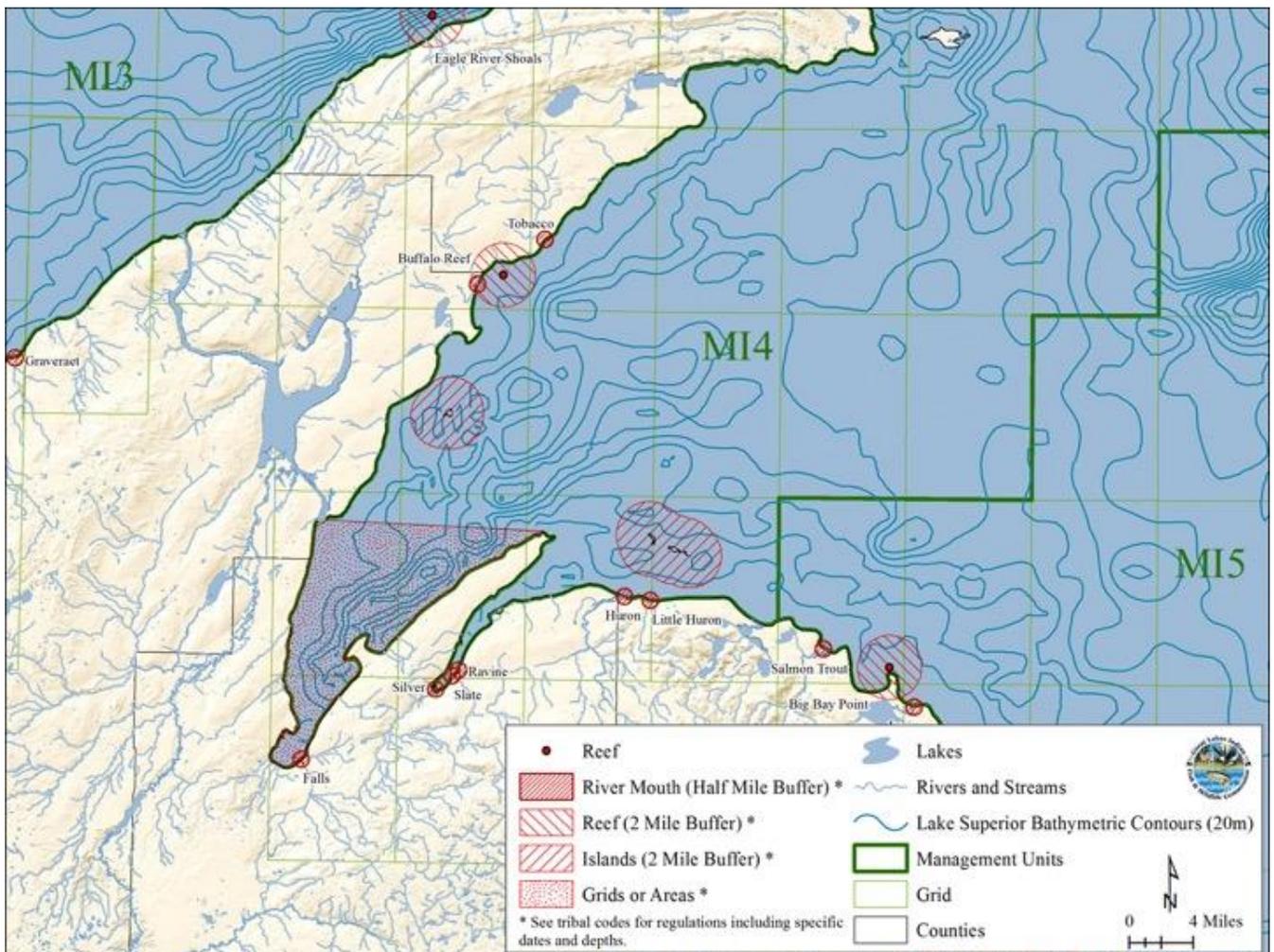
While KBIC fish hatchery operations began in 1989, there have been several moves; from home basement to Zeba pumphouse to the current locations in Pequaming and L'Anse. Our current cold-water facility is on 15 acres in Pequaming, Michigan, it began in 1993. It currently consists of two rearing buildings using groundwater for operational supply. Our walleye rearing began in 2009, and consists of two 1/2 acre rearing ponds approximately 1 mile east of L'Anse Village on Brewery Road, using impounded surface water for operational supply.

KBIC raises lake trout, brook trout (coaster and stream), and walleye for annual stocking into western Upper Peninsula of Michigan waters. Stocking records are maintained at the Natural Resource Department offices and information is shared with other organizations. Stocking has occurred at 97 locations within 56 separate water bodies within the six counties of the western Upper Peninsula, including 29 locations on the L'Anse Indian Reservation.

Current stocking target numbers are 25,000 walleye 30,000 coaster brook trout, 40,000 stream brook trout, and 50,000 lake trout fingerlings. The majority of our effort is immediately on or near our L'Anse Indian Reservation, with additional stocking into waters in areas further afield as co-managers request and resources are available. Since 1993, 1.7 million lake trout, 1.5 million brook trout, and 9.1 million walleye have been put out in local waters.

KBIC Fisheries Program

We as a Fisheries Program have a focus on the following species for high priority management: lake trout, brook trout, lake sturgeon, and walleye. Our Fisheries and AIS Programs have heavy involvement in Portage and Torch Lakes management, as it relates to subsistence fishing. We survey, track, monitor and manage a robust walleye population and associated subsistence harvest in the Portage Lake complex. We are also currently experimenting with various protocols aimed at early detection of AIS, and aimed at gathering baseline data for pollution sensitive organisms (macroinvertebrates, mussels, isopods, etc; absence presence surveys, relative density and diversity indices, etc). Stamp sand deposits and legacy mining impacts are of concern to our fisheries, the loss of habitat in areas such as Buffalo Reef, as well as the continued contribution to contaminants found in our fish. Our tribe is aware and concerned with the current trends of elevated dangerous chemical levels in the food resources our members have retained rights to hunt, fish and gather for. We work closely with MDNR, MDEQ, MDCH, and GLIFWC in collecting fish samples for toxics and contaminant analyses from Portage Lake, Torch Lake, a long list of additional lakes, and Lake Superior itself and provide comment on new potentially threatening sources of contaminants. Tribal resources continue to be used for restoration and enhancement of fisheries with our stocking efforts in the western U.P. which are coordinated with co-managers.



Map of spawning reefs in 1842 Ceded Territory