

# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road · Saint Paul, Minnesota · 55155-4037

Office of the Commissioner

651-259-5555



August 18, 2015

Arthur LaRose  
Chairman  
1855 Treaty Authority  
P.O. Box 418  
White Earth, MN. 56591

**Re: Notice of 2015 Wild Rice Harvesting**

Dear Chairman LaRose:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in receipt of a copy of the 1855 Treaty Authority Resolution No. 2015-01 giving Notice for the 2015 Off Reservation Wild Rice Season that you sent to Governor Dayton on August 7, 2015. The State's position has been and continues to be that the Bands that are members of the 1855 Treaty Authority have no hunting, fishing, and gathering rights off reservation in the 1855 ceded territory.

While the State welcomes all Band members who wish to harvest wild rice off their reservations in state waters within the 1855 ceded territory, we would remind the 1855 Treaty Authority that Band members harvesting wild rice outside of their reservations must conform to state licensing requirements. Harvest of wild rice by any person, both non-band members and Band members, off reservation and in violation of state licensing requirements, is in violation of state law and subject to criminal prosecution. Any wild rice or harvesting equipment involved in the illegal harvest of wild rice may be seized by a law enforcement officer pursuant to Minn. Stat. §97A.221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Landwehr".

Tom Landwehr  
Commissioner

cc: Governor Mark Dayton  
Lori Swanson, Minnesota Attorney General  
Erma Vizenor, Chairwoman, White Earth Band of Ojibwe  
Melanie Benjamin, Chairwoman, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
Carrie Jones, Chairwoman, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe  
Karen Diver, Chairwoman, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
Norman Deschampe, Chairman, Grand Portage Chippewa  
Kevin Leecy, Chairman, Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

Darrell Seki, Chairman, Red Lake Nation  
Gary Frazer, Executive Director, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe  
AnnaMarie Hill, Executive Director, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council  
Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Interior  
Honorable Kevin Washburn, Asst. Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Interior  
Tracy Toulou, Director, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Tribal Justice  
Andrew Luger, U.S. Attorney, Dept. of Justice, Minnesota District  
Daniel Gogal, U.S. EPA, Office of Environmental Justice  
Col. Dan Koprowski, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District  
Minnesota Congressional Delegation  
Senator Al Franken  
Senator Amy Klobuchar  
Representative Timothy J. Walz  
Representative John Kline  
Representative Erik Paulsen  
Representative Betty McCollum  
Representative Keith Ellison  
Representative Tom Emmer  
Representative Collin Peterson  
Representative Rick Nolan