

Fishermen affected by closure to receive subsidy



**DENISE CHASE,
DIRECTOR, UNIT IV**

Director Morrow and myself co-sponsored the following resolution 2015-234 "Appropriation for Tribal Fisher Payment Program" at the Nov. 3 board meeting.

**APPROPRIATION FOR
TRIBAL FISHER PAYMENT
PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors recognizes that the CORA emergency

order: Closure of Lake Trout Management Unit MM-123 on Oct. 21, 2015, has imposed a huge financial loss/impact on all licensed captains, co-captains, helpers, and this includes their families that were affected from this closure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sault Tribe Board of Directors directs staff to bring back a payment plan for the board to review and consider. The payment plan should cover from the 1 51 day of closure Oct. 23, 2015, at noon, up until the season closure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the intent of this subsidy to include all license captains, co-captains, and helpers affected by this MM-123 closure. The amount shall be \$200,000.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Budget Department shall prepare and present a budget modification from the Fisherman's Fund effectuating this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,

the payment plan will be brought back to the board by the Nov. 17, 2015, meeting.

We sponsored this resolution to try and lessen the financial burden and impact to the tribal fisherman and their families that were effected by the CORA emergency order on Oct. 22, 2015, that closed fishing effort in Lake Michigan MM-123. Since the fisherman's trust fund can only be used for the tribal fisherman, we thought this emergency closure would be a valid reason for the emergency subsidy distribution payments.

The resolution was approved and included a amount of \$200,000 and directed staff to bring back a payment plan with options for the board to review. Staff brought back about five options to discuss with the board at the workshop and also asked board members to submit any options for input and they would include.

Most board members were in attendance that day but the two Unit II reps chose not to remain

in the session and walked out. That was the time to sit at the table and to give their input on whether they agreed with any of the options on the table or not, or to amend them or to bring their own to the table.

So, the board members and staff who remained in attendance and stayed in the discussion came up with about five qualifiers for the fisherman affected by the closure in order to receive the subsidy.

Back in 2004 and 2005, assistance payments were made to Sault Tribe fishers from the fisherman's trust fund in the amount of \$678,308. The payments were issued because of the poor fishing seasons, the financial burden and hardship on the fishermen and the depressed state of the tribal fishery.

The payment plan was presented and voted down at the board meeting that night. Director Morrow sponsored the fisher subsidy again for the Dec. 8 meeting. So we'll see if a subsidy plan is approved or not. I

will update you again in the near future on this very important issue.

Children's Christmas parties
Saturday, Dec. 12 – 12-3 p.m., Manistique Tribal Center, Manistique

Sunday, Dec. 13 – 12-3 p.m., Willow Creek Professional Bldg., Escanaba

Saturday, Dec. 19 – 1-3 p.m., NMU Center – Peter White Room, Marquette

Elders Christmas Dinner
Thursday, Dec. 10 – 6 p.m., Chip Inn Casino Convention Center. Manistique and

Marquette elders already held their holiday dinners. Although I couldn't attend either one, I heard they had a great turn out and the meals were enjoyed by all in attendance. I hope to make them all next year.

At this time I would like to wish you and your families all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Thank you,
Denise Chase, Vice-chair
(906) 203-2471.