

**COMMISSIONER'S ORDER NO. 257-97**  
**Natural Resources**

A Commissioner's Order to regulate the opening and closing of the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians' Wild Rice Gathering Season for the year 1997.

WHEREAS: the Commissioner of Natural Resources has the power to open and close wild rice gathering within the jurisdiction of the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians, through Mille Lacs Band Statute Annotated Title 11 Section 2003 and;

WHEREAS: members of the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians rely on the gathering of wild rice for food and religious purposes, and;

WHEREAS: the taking of wild rice should be done with the preservation of the rice bed foremost, and;

WHEREAS: the harvesting of ripe rice is essential to the preservation of the rice bed.

NOW THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me by the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians under tribal law, I, Don Wedll, Commissioner of Natural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians hereby prescribe the following opening and closing dates for harvesting wild rice within the jurisdiction of the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians:

Ricing hours will be between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on lakes open to ricing.

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Opening</u>	<u>Closing</u>
Ogechie Lake	Sept. 1,3,5,7-	September 30, 1997
Onamia Lake	Sept 6	September 30, 1997
Shakopee Lake	Sept. 5	September 30, 1997
Whitefish Lake	Sept. 1,3,5,7-	September 30, 1997

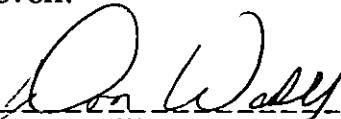
**Band Accesses**

Mallard Lake	August 28	September 30, 1997
Dean Lake	Be Determine	September 30, 1997
Sandy Lake	August 28-	September 30, 1997
Deer Lake	Be Determine	September 30, 1997
Minnewawa Lake	August 28-	September 30, 1997
Swamp Lake	Closed	


All lakes that are posted closed will remain closed until they are opened.

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DATED at Vineland, Minnesota this 29th day of August in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven.

  
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Don Wedll  
Commissioner of Natural Resources

APPROVED AND NUMBERED AS TO  
FORM AND EXECUTION

  
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Jim Genia  
Solicitor General

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND