

# Ashi-Nisiwag Giizisoog (13 Moons)

## Adikamego Giizis

*Adikomego Giizis* is the whitefish moon and begins its cycle as a new moon on November 16. November's new moon is also known as *Gashkadino Giizis* - the freezing moon. We know from these two names that whitefish netting ends as the waters begin to freeze and, like the netting of *ogaa*, it is a cold weather activity!

### Adikamego-giizis apii, gibagidawaag adikamegwag (In November, you nett whitefish.)

By Shannon Judd, FdL Resource Management

With the cold of November comes the opportunity to harvest a valuable food resource: *Adikameg* (Whitefish). One member of the *Adikameg* family found primarily on inland *zaaga'iganan* (Lakes) is *Odoonibii* (Tullibee), otherwise known as Northern Cisco, and Lake Herring. *Adikamego Giizis* (November) is traditionally a time for *bagida'waa* (netting) these fish as cooling water temperatures draw them to the surface to spawn. At the same time, bigger game fish flee to deeper waters. Once netted, they are typically smoked in order to preserve the meat as a long-term food source.

Many Northern Minnesota *zaaga'iganan* are ideal habitat for *Adikamegwag* as they depend on cooler water temperatures and high oxygen levels for survival. They are very sensitive fish and any changes in these conditions can be detrimental to their population. According to fisheries specialists, *Ogaawan* (walleye) and *Ginoozhe* (northern pike) feed on *Odoonibiig*, so a decline in their population could possibly affect these fisheries as well.

*Bagida'waawag Adikamegwag/Odoonibiig* (Whitefish/Tullibee netting) is not as common as it once was. When asked, many people stated that it is because they are not as abundant as they once were. This is true for some *zaaga'iganan*, particularly in central Minnesota. On the other hand, others who went as recently as last year found them in large numbers further north. Additional reasons cited for the decline in popularity include: the overall trend of younger generations hunting and fishing less; other food sources are available, so it is not as necessary for survival; and some people would like to, but have not had an opportunity to try it.

If you are interested in *bagida'waawag Adikamegwag/Odoonibiig* this season, you can obtain your permit from the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division on University Road or call 878-8001 with any questions. The *bagida'waa* season this year will run from October 23<sup>rd</sup> until ice cover.

#### Additional sources of information:

<http://www.fdlrez.com/newnr/main.htm>

<http://www.glifwc.org/>

<http://www.1854treatyauthority.org/fisheries.htm>

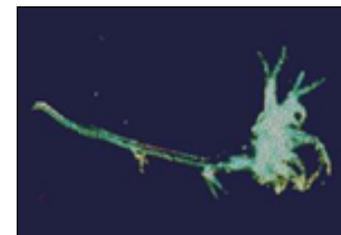
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/index.html>

*The world was created when muskrat brought mud from the bottom of the flood to be placed on turtle's back. The turtle's shell has thirteen central plates, called scutes. The traditional Ojibwe calendar year follows a 13 moon lunar cycle. The names of each moon are influenced by natural phenomena, animal activity, and cultural practices and beliefs. Because the area in which Ojibwe is spoken is so vast, not all Ojibwe people use the same names for the moons.*



Above: Photo of *Odoonibii*  
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/baudette/whitefish.html>

Right: Photo of Spiny Water Flea;  
<http://www.great-lakes.net/envt/flora-fauna/invasive/spinyflea.html>



### Beware of Aliens...

By Shannon Judd

FdL Resource Management

Those who have been out on the *Gichigamiin* (Great Lakes) or nearby inland *zaaga'iganan* have most likely seen signs posted warning of invasive species and how to avoid spreading them. Invasive species are those that are not native to, or naturally found in, a particular area. Their presence can greatly impact the native species as often times, they have no natural predators to control their population. The spiny water flea is one example of an invasive species found in the *Gichigamiin* area. This *bagida'waa* and ice fishing season, do your part to prevent their spread and protect our valuable natural resources: rinse off your watercraft and dump bilge water and bait buckets. *Asabiig* (nets) used on lakes already infested with spiny water flea should not be used on any other lakes.

Source: <http://www.great-lakes.net/envt/flora-fauna/invasive/spinyflea.html>

#### Events:

15 November: America Recycles Day

19 November: 13 Moons Workshop: *Abwewasigan*, Fish Smoking and Processing.

Info - 218.878.8001

*Thirteen Moons* is produced monthly by the Fond du Lac Resource Management Division and University of Minnesota Extension. Content is based on the appropriate moon, and addresses culture, ecology, and the management of natural resources. Comments and contributions should be directed to the FDL Resource Management @ 218.878.8001