Gathering Giizhik on a Changing Landscape

ROBIN CLARK¹ ², YVETTE DICKINSON¹, ERIC CLARK³, EMILY MARTIN⁴, AUDREY MAYER¹, RODNEY CHIMNER¹, MELISSA BAIRD¹
¹Michigan Technological University, ²Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc., ³Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, ⁴Bay Mills Indian Community
Gathering Giizhik

*Mino-bimaadizi*

- Giizhik, Northern white cedar, *Thuja occidentalis*
- Essential in teachings, ceremony, and daily life
Gathering Giizhik

Centuries of change

• Origins, glaciation, migrations
• Colonization, occupation, land use and forest management regimes
• Climate change
Gathering Giizhik

Current model
Gathering Giizhik

Future model
Are giizhik declining here?

What does their future look like?

What we can do to support them?
Gathering Giizhik

Project goals

- Work with Anishinaabeg who gather giizhik
- Understand gatherer needs and observations/predictions of change
- Assess the status of Giizhik across land tenure types
- Find ways to support Giizhik and long-term gathering opportunities
Gathering Giizhik
Methods

Anishinaabe gathering

- Biskaabiiyang
- Working with 26+ Anishinaabeg
- Visits, interviews, gatherings
  - Initiated with asemaa
  - Tribal ownership
- Iterative process
  - Transcript analysis
  - Relationship mapping
  - Planning together
Findings
Observations & predictions of change
Next steps
Planning for Forest Relations

- Giizhik assessments
- Age structure, abundance
- Harvesting site criteria
- Planning for long-term gathering opportunities
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Robin Clark
Environmental Specialist
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
rclark@itcmi.org

Eric Clark
Lead Wildlife Biologist
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa
eclark@saulttribe.net

Emily Martin
Lead Inland Biologist
Bay Mills Indian Community
emartin@baymills.org