

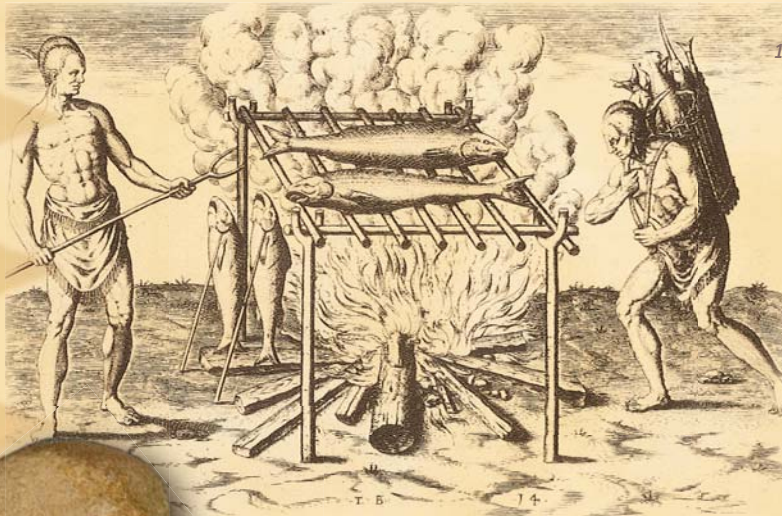
FISHING THE NORTH AMERICAN WAY

Native Americans had many different ways of catching fish. The Delaware Indians in the Chesapeake Bay area shot fish with a bow and arrow from a dugout canoe. They trapped fish behind dams and caught them with their bare hands. Sometimes they constructed weirs (wooden fence-like enclosures across a stream) to funnel fish into a woven trap basket. Nets (seines) were made with spun grass and stone sinkers. They even made hand lines with twisted plant fibers and hooks of bone or dried bird claws.

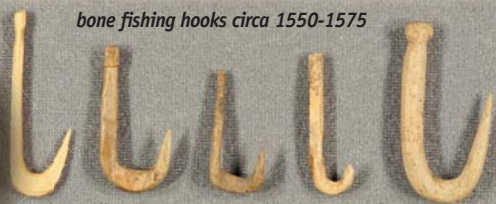
Tribes from the Great Lakes area, like the Menominee, went out at night in birch-bark canoes. Then they attracted fish with torchlights and speared them.



stone
sinkers
circa
1550-1575



bone fishing hooks circa 1550-1575



from Clinton, Lancaster and Greene counties

Eskimos

along the Arctic Coast made spears with prongs, called "leisters." They constructed two dams across a stream and left one with a small opening. Char (a salmonlike fish) swam through the opening and became trapped. The Eskimos then speared the fish with their leisters.

Colville Indians along the Columbia River in Oregon let the fish do all the work for them. They built big baskets and hung them off the edge of cliffs near waterfalls. Migrating salmon jumped into the air to get over the falls and sometimes flopped into a basket.