

ENOUGH FISH FOR EVERYONE

PENNSYLVANIA'S ANCESTRAL TRIBES

This list* includes Native American groups that lived in what is today Pennsylvania. Some are listed in other areas because those groups have relocated elsewhere.

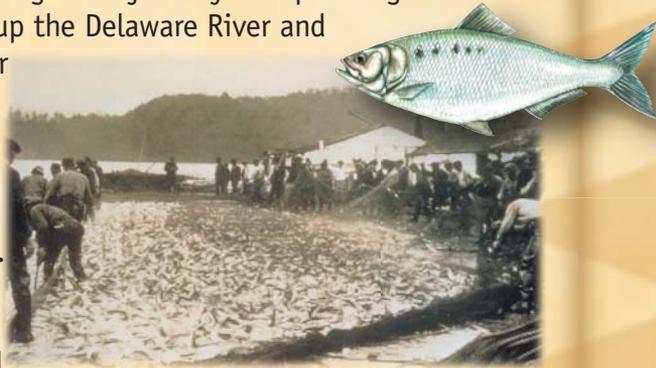
- Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Cayuga Nation
- Delaware Nation, Oklahoma
- Delaware Tribe of Indians, Oklahoma
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Oneida Indian Nation
- Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
- Onondaga Indian Nation
- Seneca Nation of Indians
- Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
- St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Mohican Indians of Wisconsin
- Tonawanda Seneca Nation
- Tuscarora Nation



The first visitors to America were amazed with the rich, clean aquatic habitats. And they took advantage of all the fish in those habitats. They first caught fish on a small scale—just enough to feed their families. Settlers soon learned to focus on migratory fish. It was the best way to catch a bunch of food at once. America's population grew, and that's when commercial fishing became important.



American shad, shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon, American eels and paddlefish were plentiful. They were also easy to net or capture on their migration journeys to spawning areas. Sturgeon migrated up the Delaware River and were prized for their meat and caviar (eggs). American shad migrated up the Susquehanna and Delaware rivers. Fisheries were set up in the 1800s to net the shad. Dried and salted shad were an important food source at that time.



Even odd fish like eels and paddlefish were commercially harvested. Eels were a delicacy when smoked.



And their skins were used to wrap the handles of buggy whips. Paddlefish live in the Mississippi River up to the Ohio and Allegheny rivers in Pennsylvania. Their eggs made a great substitute for sturgeon caviar once the East Coast fisheries declined. One female paddlefish could have 10 to 20 pounds of eggs!

