

Evidences of aboriginal fishing activities are still to be found by the archeologist in the fish hooks, fish spears and net weights that are his occasional find.

Fish, water-fowl, and crustacea were so easily obtained that no tribe need feel the pangs of hunger while following a stream. Consequently it is by the river-banks that the searcher for archeological specimens will often find chips and artifacts reminiscent of the primitive hunters and fishermen.

Here and there one is yet able to find an Indian "fishing-place" almost as in days primeval, but these are fast disappearing, fulfilling the prophecy of Passaconaway, great sachem of the Pennacooks, who warned his race that "though the palefaces are now only few in numbers, they are to be as numerous as the leaves in the forest; the red man's fishing-places will be choked with dams and whirring mills."

On the shores of the Great Lakes fishing was an extensive primitive industry, engaged in by the Indians with consummate skill. For a considerable distance out over these bodies of water their canoes could pass with safety, and the fish caught in these waters added largely to the food supply of the great Algonkian tribes of this extensive lacustrine region.

In his "Handbook of Aboriginal American Antiquities," Dr. W. H. Holmes states that "fishing was a leading avocation of the people of the Great Lakes area; their ancient culture was about on a par with that of the aboriginal inhabitants of the eastern part of the country."

"The fisherman of to-day, in following his occupation, still resorts to a number of devices that originated with the Indian," writes Leo J. Frachtenberg in his discussion of "Our Indebtedness to the American Indian."

"Thus, he is indebted to him among other things for the use of the fish weir, for the method of catching fish by narcotic poisons, and for the practice of catching fish by torchlight. Also he taught our farmers the use of fish manure."

"Their work and occupation consists almost entirely in hunting and fishing," is an oft-recurring phrase in the literature on our early American Indian.