

One mode of Indian ice-fishing was for the fisherman to lie down over the hole he had cut and to cover himself up with a blanket so as to make it semi-dark, thus enabling him more readily to see the fish swimming about. It was then fairly easy to spear them.

Publius V. Lawson reported that the Potawatomi inhabiting the west shore of Lake Michigan speared fish through the ice along the lake front, especially during March. (*Wis. Archeol.*, v. 19, no. 2)

Alexander Henry, in a book on his travels (1760-76), describes another Indian method of ice-fishing, as follows: "The white fish is taken at Michilimacinae in nets, which are set under the ice. To do this several holes are made in the ice, each at such distance from that behind it, that it may be reached under the ice by the end of a pole. A line of 60 fathoms in length is thus conveyed by hole to hole until it is extended to the length desired. This done, the line is now drawn back and the net brought under.

"A large stone (net weight) is made fast to the sinking line at each end, and let down to the bottom; the net is spread in the water by the lighters on its upper edge, sinkers on its lower, in the usual manner. The fish running against the net, entangle their gills in the meshes, and are thus held fast."

An interesting description of the manner of construction of a long-net similar to the foregoing is contained in Alanson Skinner's "Notes on the Material Culture of the Mascoutens or Prairie Potawatomi Indians," and reads as follows: "In former times, pine or cedar saplings with the tops left on, were set up in the water in winter and allowed to freeze in with the bushy tops exposed. Long hand-made gill nets of bark or fibre twine were stretched between these and pulled through a hole in the ice at intervals to remove the catch."

Another type of Mascouten ice fishing is described by Alanson Skinner. "In the month of February, the fishermen chopped holes in the ice and set up tipis over them. The fisher lay on the ice, under his shelter, and angled with a fish carved from shell or wood, weighted so that it would sink. This was attached by a short line to a short stick held in the hand. By manipulating the stick the lure was