

To the whole Legislature of the State of Maine

We the undersigned Chiefs & others of the Penobscot
Tribe of Indians, ask you to hear us in this our petition,
~~in~~ in which we mean to speak nothing but truth
and first we would say that in the days of our fore
fathers the great plenty of fish which yearly came
into the waters of our Penobscot River was one of the
greatest sources by which they attained their living
and has so continued within the remembrance of many
of us who are now living. which plenty we always
considered as sent us by the Great God who provides
means for all his Children.

But when our white brethren came amongst us
they settled on our lands at & near the tide waters
of our River and there was plenty of fish for us
all. but within a few years our brethren the white
men who live near the tide waters of our River have
every year built so many weares that they have caught
and killed so many of the fish that there is hardly
any comes up the River where we live. so that
we cannot catch enough for the use of our families
even in the season of the year when fish used to be
most plenty.

We have asked the general Court at Boston to make
laws to stop the white people from building weares and
they have made laws but they have done us no good
for the fish grow more scarce every year—
besides the weares they use a great many long nets
We can only use very small nets and spears—now
we ask you to make a law to stop the white
folks from building any more weares forever so that
fish may again become plenty and also stop the
white people from using any seines about hindersheag
on the main river

and we ask you to make the Law so as to stop the
white people & Indians from catching fish more than
two days in the week in the season of salmon shall
and likewise at least for five years, we think that
fish will then be plenty again.

We are your ~~Brothers~~ ^{his} John X Neptune
^{mark}
^{his} Lacey X
^{mark}
Deal X Moley
Deal X Torner
^{his} Joseph X
^{mark}
^{his} Solomon X
^{mark}

House of Representatives
Jan'y 26 1821

Read and committed to the
joint standing committee on Interior
Fishes. Sent up for concurren
Benj. Arny S.W.

Petition of John
Neptune & Co. pray-
ing a law may be
passed to prevent
substitution of fish
in the season of Jan'y 24 1821
Read & concurred
Amos A. McManis
Clerk