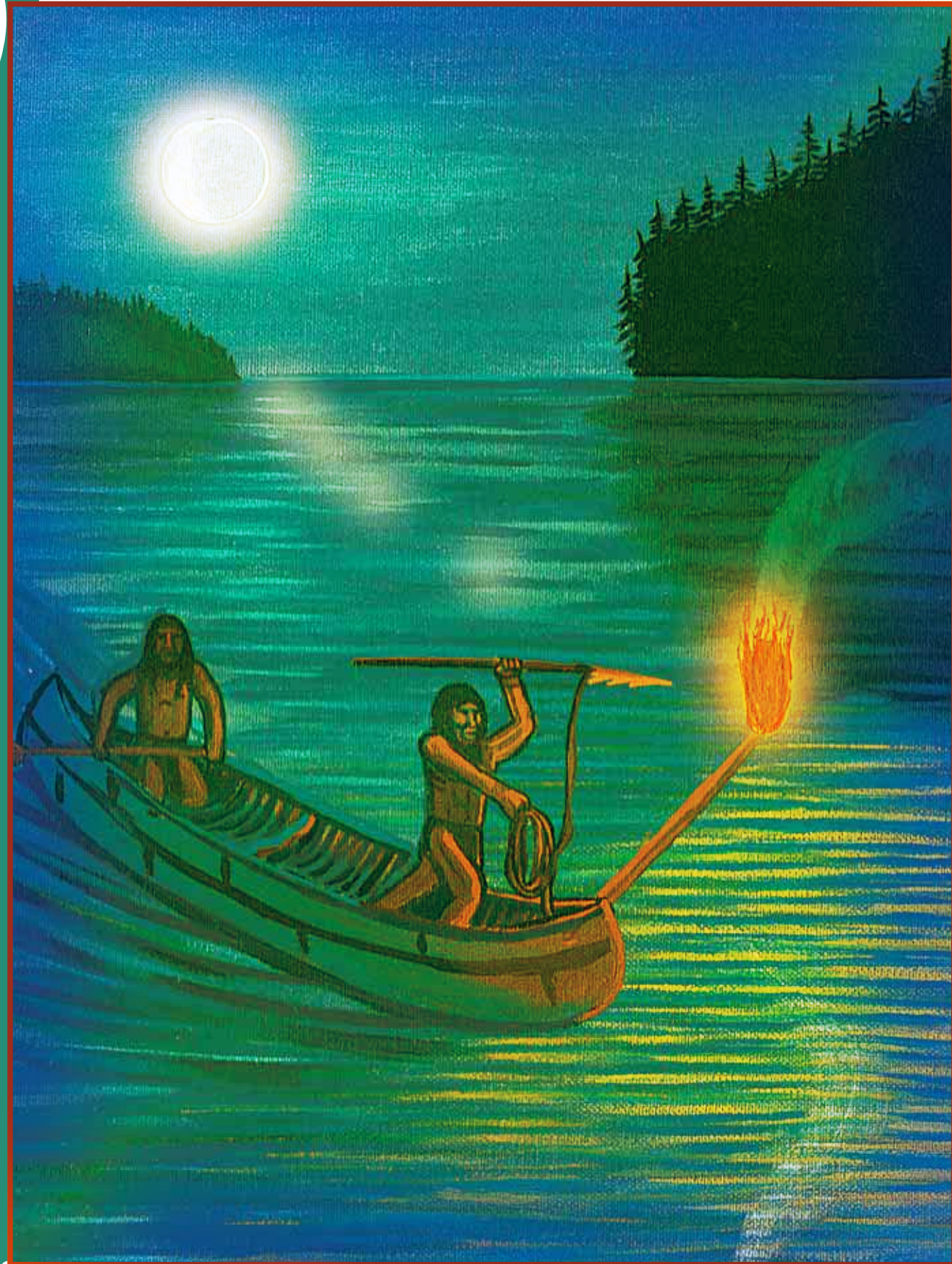


# the Sturgeon's significance

Kumkatamuj



*A popular method of fishing, known as "saqsekwe" in Mi'kmaq, was practiced in the evening with torches*

Barbed harpoons made of bone were produced by the Mi'kmaq as far back as 5000 years ago to fish sturgeon

Sturgeon leather used in clothing and bookbinding, and isinglass, a gelatinous substance obtained from the air bladder was used in clarifying jellies, glues, wines and beer

- Sturgeon was a vital meat, oil, roe and leather resource for the Aboriginal peoples living along the Atlantic
- Once the Aboriginal people had shown Colonists the many uses of sturgeon, demands on the sturgeon population quickly rose
- The commercial sturgeon fishery is often referred to as the "black gold rush"
- Black caviar (roe) from the female sturgeon was exported to Europe
- Market demand for sturgeon meat and roe have fuelled aquaculture interests to understand sturgeon growth
- Today sturgeon eggs are the main ingredient in caviar



Sturgeon represent a 200 million year lineage of a long-lived bottom dwelling fish.

Sturgeon with limited breeding and feeding ranges are a crucial indicator of habitat and prey contamination.

## Sturgeon have a special role in bio-diversity