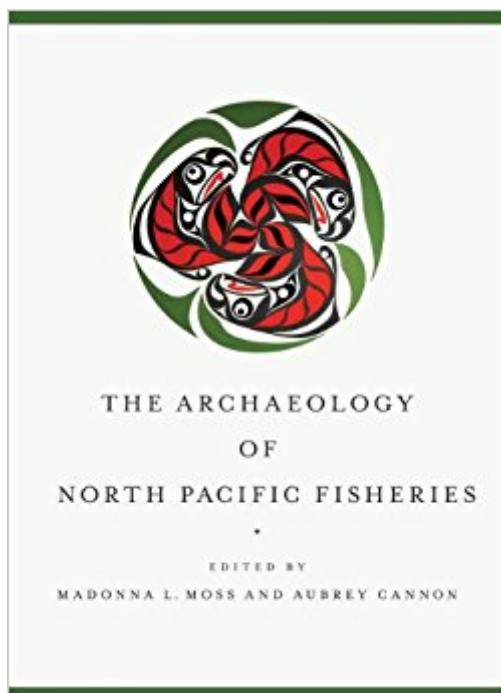


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# The Archaeology Of North Pacific Fisheries



## Synopsis

For thousands of years, fisheries were crucial to the sustenance of the First Peoples of the Pacific Coast. Yet human impact has left us with a woefully incomplete understanding of their histories prior to the industrial era. Covering Alaska, British Columbia, and Puget Sound, *The Archaeology of North Pacific Fisheries* illustrates how the archaeological record reveals new information about ancient ways of life and the histories of key species. Individual chapters cover salmon, as well as a number of lesser-known species abundant in archaeological sites, including pacific cod, herring, rockfish, eulachon, and hake. In turn, this ecological history informs suggestions for sustainable fishing in today's rapidly changing environment.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"[The editors] hope that the creation of a baseline understanding of the complexities of fisheries through time, space, and cultural uses will yield the recognition that ancient data are relevant to the present and future of fisheries management--particularly the ways in which climate change may provoke fine-scale responses in the fisheries. . . . Recommended." (Choice) "The goals of the volume are broad but manageable . . . [it] will be valuable to readers who are interested in the latest methods of extracting data from archaeological fishbone, who are interested in a current summary of data on precontact North Pacific fisheries and fish (also useful for fisheries management), and for those interested in the evolution of fisheries and fish in the North Pacific." (Kathlyn M. Stewart *American Antiquity*) "The contributions to this

volume, though just a sampling of the work currently being conducted around the eastern North Pacific, highlight the depth and range of approaches that characterize the state-of-the-art in the zooarchaeological analysis of fish remains. (Michael A. Etnier *Alaska Journal of Anthropology*) "This volume provides important insights for all archaeologists working along the north Pacific coast. (Alan D. McMillan *Journal Canadien d'Archéologie*) "Serious students of fisheries research are well advised to obtain this book. (Roy L. Carlson *Review of Archaeology*)

Madonna L. Moss is professor of anthropology at the University of Oregon. Aubrey Cannon is professor of anthropology at McMaster University in Ontario.

"The Archaeology of North Pacific Fisheries" contains the insightful results of a 2008 academic symposium in Vancouver, British Columbia, as edited by Madonna Moss and Aubrey Cannon. The symposium and the book bring together a number of threads of inquiry into the fact of First Nation use of various Pacific Northwest fisheries for the last 10,000 years. Modern archeological techniques have allowed a more detailed examination of a number of early sites in Alaska, British Columbia, and Washington's Puget Sound. Those examinations produced data on which fish species were exploited and in what numbers. The data in turn has provided insights into how the First Nations may have organized themselves to take advantage of fish resources over long periods of time. The details may also offer lessons for the sustainable operation of present-day fisheries in the Pacific Northwest. The book includes eighteen chapters, the first and last of which are an introduction and a summary by the editors. In between are essays on archeological methodologies, the familiar exploitation of salmon, the less familiar exploitation of Pacific Cod, and the role of a number of lesser species such as herring. The book is rather sparsely illustrated with a few handfuls of charts and graphs. This is probably not a book for the general reader. Those interested in the details of the archaeology, or in the possibilities of reconstructing First Nation culture and/or pre-industrial age fish populations can pick and choose among the chapters. The reviewer particularly enjoyed the section on Pacific Cod, which has experienced surprisingly long usage in the Northwest and which still enjoys a commercial future, unlike its better known and more heavily exploited relative, the Atlantic cod. Recommended.

A wealth of information regarding Pacific Northwest First Nation's fishing and gathering practices. Included are identified species harvested and tools used. Moss and Cannon gives the reader good

revealing background for fisheries and wildlife biologists, archaeologists, resource managers, Native Americans and students of cultural studies. Included are large lists of references cited that opens up numerous opportunities for further study.

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