marking a "transitional period" is somewhat arbitrary and should be extended to 1000 BP (after Matson and Coupland 1995).

4 The label 'sea-wolf' should not be viewed as either accurate or definitive. Commonly spoken of as 'lightning snake' or hai 'itlik (the Church site [DgRw 192] and Museum both use this title in their information boards) and sometimes as 'Wasgo' or 'Wasco', the former terminology derives from a specific Nuu-chah-nulth figure (the "hai 'itlik" or Lightning Serpent is associated with the Thunderbird and becomes the Thunderbird's harpoon when it takes whales). The term really should not be used outside the Nuu-chah-nulth area and that specific context (Alan McMillan, personal communication 2003). It is difficult, however, to find an appropriate descriptive designation for this peculiar creature. Certainly a label such as 'sinuous beast with hunched limbs, long tail, ferocious teeth, and fiery mouth' is cumbersome and inconvenient. I employ the name 'sea-wolf' here for descriptive purposes—as the creature does possess wolf-like features and a sea-serpent's form—yet I do so with awareness that the label lacks ethnographic specificity. Several Snuneymuxw refer to the creature simply as 'mythical.'

5 The sex of a given figure is, however, often ambiguous and in many cases it appears that hermaphrodites may be portrayed; gender indeterminate beings instilled with powers both masculine and feminine.

6 But see the extraordinary artifact recovered from the Pender Canal site (Carlson and Hobler 1993; Figure A30). This object depicting a 'sea-wolf' motif problematizes any tidy or linear chronology with regard to the evolution of Northwest Coast design elements and style. The piece looks to be of Marpole age but has been associated with the date of 3600 +/- 10 C-14 years BP (Carlson and Hobler 1993:47).