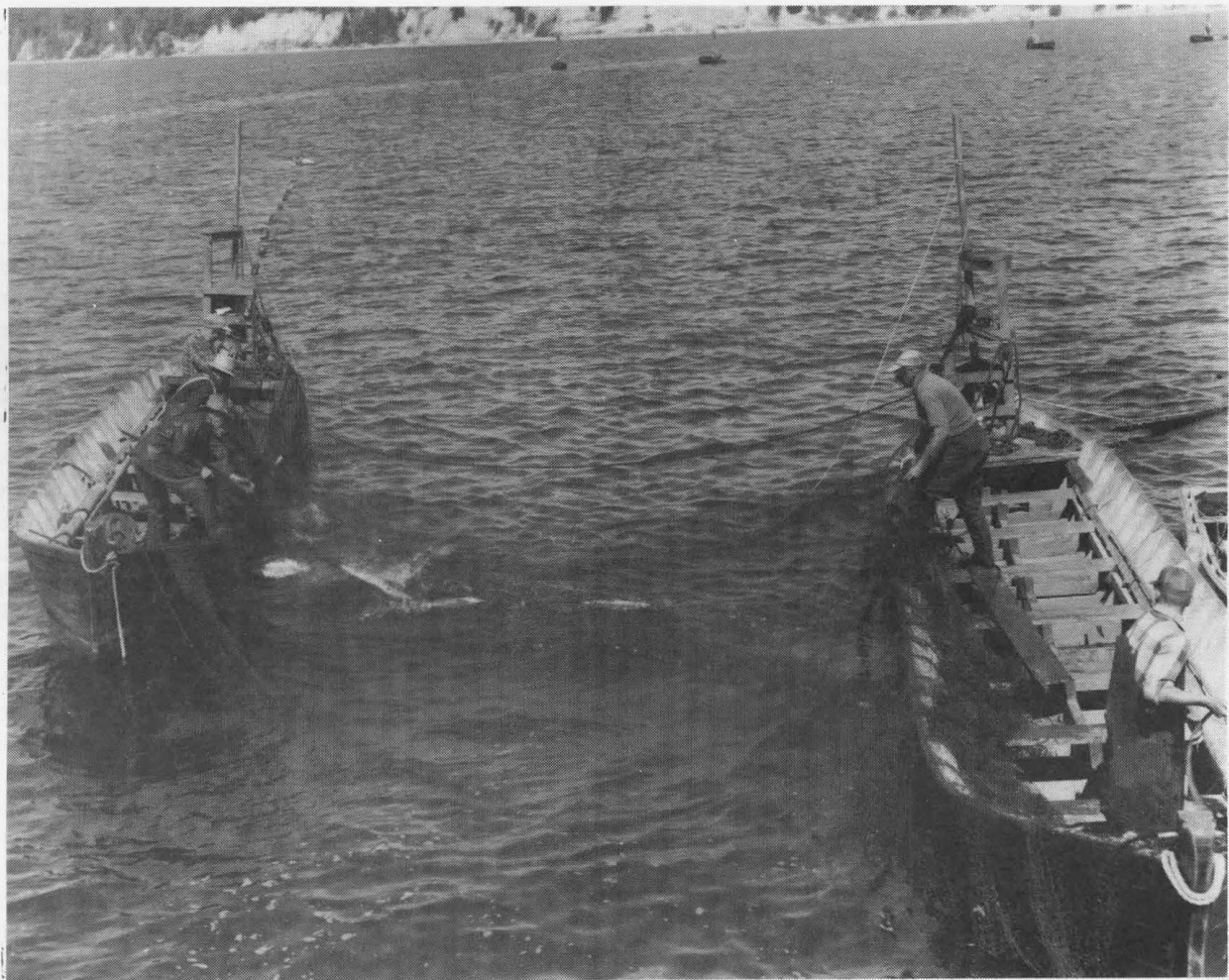


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# The Midden

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# The Midden

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**Submissions** and exchange publications should be directed to the Editor. Contributions on subjects germane to B.C. Archaeology are welcomed: maximum length 1,500 words, no footnotes and only a brief bibliography (if necessary at all). Guidelines available.

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The next issue of *The Midden* will appear mid-April, 1985.

Publication of *The Midden* is made possible in part by a grant from the British Columbia Heritage Trust.

THE COVER: *Reef-netting in the San Juan Islands in 1951. While the equipment has changed, the layout and use of the gear are traditional Coast Salish techniques. Photo courtesy of the British Columbia Provincial Museum, Victoria, B.C.*



## The Society

**Membership** year runs September 1 - August 31. Fees: single - \$15; family - \$17; senior citizen - \$10; student - \$10. Address to: A.S.B.C. Membership Secretary, Box 520, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N3.

**Meetings** featuring illustrated lectures are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August), at 8:00 p.m. in the Vancouver Museum Auditorium. Visitors and new members are welcome!

Coming Topics:    March 12    Dr. Roy Carlson: Shell middens in culture history—the Pender Island site.\*

                         April 10    Dr. Paul Goldberg: Geological approaches to archaeology.

**\*Change of meeting for March only:** Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m., at the UBC Museum of Anthropology (Theatre Gallery). Lecture followed by a tour of the exhibit *Changing Tides*.

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# Editorial

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*MEARES ISLAND TREES* are commanding considerable attention these days—but not from archaeologists. Or at least not from the Heritage Conservation Branch.

Many of the trees which loggers, Indians, and environmentalists are fighting over in the courts are "culturally modified." A recently released research report concludes that potentially these trees can provide a wealth of information about aboriginal forest utilization and about cultural patterns in general, extending back to the pre-contact era.

The study was conducted by Arcas Associates for MacMillan Bloedel, at the request of the HCB. The research design involved a combination of probabilistic and judgemental sampling within a 1 x 10 km area along the east shore of the Island. Seven per cent of the study area was searched for evidence of bark stripping activities, ten per cent for other types of tree utilization.

The resulting tally comprises: 353 trees with scars from bark stripping; 28 logs and "plank stripped" trees; 5 notched trees and logs; 2 chopped trees; 52 aboriginal stumps; 24 unmodified cut logs; and 2 canoe blanks. The prediction, based on a statistical analysis, is that there are between about 2,000 and 4,000 culturally modified trees in the study area.

Dendrochronology samples yielded 101 dates ranging from A.D. 1642 to 1948, the majority in the 19th century.

These data will obviously enter into the legal battle over Meares Island. The presence of the tree features, as well as midden sites, will certainly be part of the argument for the claim of sovereignty over the Island by West Coast native peoples. It is useless to attempt to divorce the archaeological record from the political arena.

It is also useless to pretend that archaeological interests can be upheld without taking a political

stand. I sympathize with Branch staff who see the results of their investigative studies pointing in a direction opposite to that of the present government. Nevertheless, they are supposed to be managing heritage resources for the people of British Columbia.

Protecting heritage resources on Meares Island is, as far as the HCB is concerned, not an issue. The Branch drew up a set of prescriptions which it expects MacMillan Bloedel to follow, and, in addition, has applied to have the Designated Site of Fort Defiance removed from the timber licence. The prescriptions address the five-year logging plans and are designed to ensure that all sites *excluding tree sites* are preserved intact.

Culturally modified trees, known or unknown, are not covered by the prescriptions. Those which are on shell middens will (incidentally) be protected, as will those in a "leave strip" along the shore.

As long as the HCB declines to consider culturally modified trees as sites, it can avoid the question of protection. This provides a rationalization for limiting involvement in the current controversy to the submission of an affidavit summarizing the studies that have been conducted to date on the Island. But it doesn't do anything for the trees.

The sooner the Branch acknowledges the heritage value of culturally modified trees and develops a suitable and well-founded management plan, the better. Sending archaeologists scrambling through the forest as an advance team for fallers should be a last resort—not the focus of research activities.

The attitude that the Meares Island trees "have been done," and can in clear conscience be logged, is untenable. By the time they publish the study which reports that the trees comprise a potential wealth of information, there may not be any left.

- Kathryn Bernick



# Once upon an Artifact . . .

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## Unusual Find in Campbell River

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A *LONG TIME* Campbell River resident was intrigued upon finding a grooved sandstone cobble at the bottom of a construction hole in the spring of 1984. The developer had sunk the pit while building a condominium near the beach.

After wiping the dirt away, he assumed it was an axe head, because of its weight and the groove where a cedar bark rope could have been attached. Curious, he took the find to the local museum.

Being responsible for archaeological queries at the museum, my assistance was sought. Together with other staff members I deliberated: Perhaps a net sinker? A canoe anchor? Or is it an unfinished piece? We were not even sure whether the groove had been purposefully made.

We couldn't tell him much about the artifact, but we did answer some of his questions concerning archaeology. He enjoyed the exchange. Realizing that more people would be able to see and learn about the artifact, and provide more information about it, if it were in the museum's care, he donated it to the Campbell River Museum.

One professional opinion has already been received. Bjørn Simonsen, former Provincial Archaeologist, described it as "a sandstone waterworn cobble which has a groove worn around it, caused by differential erosion of a softer material than that making up the cobble around it." He suggested that this kind of stone could have been picked up from the beach by someone in prehistoric times to be used as a weight or net sinker, since the groove would enable suspension from a cord. "It could also have been a personal charm or 'pet rock', just as we might pick up a similar souvenir today."

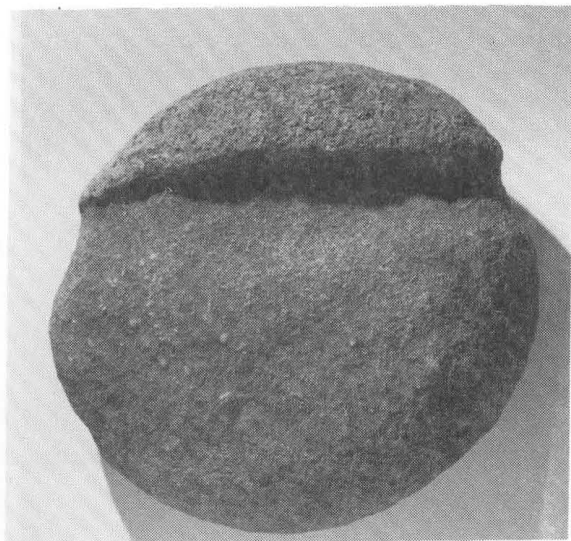
In the fall of 1984 I visited the construction site where the artifact had been found. It had come from 14 feet below ground surface, about fifty metres inland from the high tide line, from a clearly distinguishable gravel matrix. A

cultural association might exist since fire cracked rocks were present nearby.

Museum records document other isolated artifact finds along the beach at Campbell River. Of special interest is a petroglyph brought to the museum in the late 1960s. Small and easily carried, it has two rimmed eyes and a third circle suggesting a mouth. These sporadic discoveries indicate a prehistoric occupation in the area.

Visitors to Campbell River are invited to stop in at the Museum. Ask to see the grooved cobble: What do you think it is?

- *Yvonne Prudek*  
formerly with the  
*Campbell River and District Museum*



*Grooved cobble found in Campbell River. 22.8 cm long, 20.3 cm wide, 7.5 cm thick. Photo by Grant Patterson, courtesy of the Campbell River and District Museum.*

*Sharing your favorite artifact story can be as easy as a phone call. Yvonne Prudek (at 929-5312) will be happy to take down information and turn it into an article. Or, send written submissions directly to **The Midden**—they are always welcome!*

# Response

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## From the British Columbia Heritage Trust

Dear Mr. Simonsen:

I read with interest your letter published in the recent (Dec. 1984) issue of *The Midden*, and naturally have a number of comments in response to your view of how the British Columbia Heritage Trust should manage its programs and allocate its funds.

The Directors are well aware of the Trust's responsibilities in all aspects of the preservation of our cultural heritage, including archaeology. We feel that when the opportunity has arisen we have responded to the need of the archaeological community. This is surely evidenced by the purchase of the Beach Grove and Monte Creek sites, which you, in your former role as provincial archaeologist, advised on the purchase. In the area of public archaeology we provided funds for interpretation and display at the St. Mungo, Pender Canal, and Powell River sites.

Our involvement in archaeology, however, has not been without its problems, one of which was developing appropriate guidelines for the Historical Archaeology Program. We spent considerable time discussing what the Trust's emphasis for this grant area should be, bearing in mind the roles of the B.C. Provincial Museum and of the Heritage Conservation Branch. We decided to focus our financial resources on the pre- and post- contact period, and expect to commit up to \$300,000 in 1985 for this program, subject to the Minister's approval of our lottery request.

The Trust's program allocations have consistently reflected the level of activity and perceived public need and demand. As I am sure you are aware, it is the policy of the Trust to respond to community need; we do not actively request applications or promote initiatives in any of our programs. We do support the Archaeological Society of B.C. through a grant for *The Midden*.

Now to your suggested immediate steps, I would respond as follows:

*Initiate a proactive policy towards the encouragement of native Indian projects.* We would suggest we do respond to such applications when they are submitted. A perusal of a list of grants to date in the 1984/85 fiscal year alone will reveal that 19 grants from all programs have been for projects which are directly concerned with Indian heritage. We suggest to you that this is not an insignificant number of grants.

*Board representation.* The Board of Directors of the Trust is a diverse group of concerned and interested individuals; we bring to the Board a range of expertise. It is important to note that



the professional experts in the heritage field are Dr. Don Mitchell, who as you know is an anthropologist, and Ms. Joanne Monaghan, who has a degree in archaeology. This, we would suggest, indicates that the anthropological/archaeological discipline is well represented.

*Initiation of an ethnology and linguistics program.* This type of program would primarily involve research. The Trust has always attempted to limit its involvement in the area of research because of the tremendous demand it creates; it is only through the Student Employment Program and the Historical Archaeology Program that research has been funded. We do not see how the Trust can financially afford to expand in this area without serious repercussions in other granting areas.

*Initiate a salvage archaeology program.* The Heritage Conservation Branch is charged with a major part of this responsibility. Further, the Heritage Conservation Act, Part 2, Section 7, stipulates that the owner of a heritage site may be ordered by the Minister to pay for a site survey or investigation. The Trust will not muddy the water by becoming involved in this area.

*Add a grant program for heritage interpretation.* We are already involved and have financially assisted with several projects and have developed a travelling display that further promotes the message of heritage conservation.

*Begin an active and aggressive site acquisition program.* One of the consequences of the Trust acquiring property is that progressively more of its annual budget goes towards the operation and maintenance of these sites, and as a result the amount of money available to community organizations for grant programs is reduced. That consequence, we feel, would be extremely detrimental to the community based heritage movement in the province. At the same time, the Trust does recognize it has some degree of responsibility for the purchase and development of certain sites that it considers have provincial significance. The Trust feels that its practice of providing grants to community based organizations is the most appropriate one given the limited resources available.

As to your suggestion that the Trust seek further sources of revenue such as the private sector, be assured that efforts are currently under way to do exactly as you have suggested. We are sure, however, that you can appreciate the difficulty of that task given the economic climate of Canada.

In summary, it is important to recognize that the Trust's role is to respond to the heritage programs initiated by the local community and by the various provincial societies and organizations. At the same time, it must do so in view of the economic reality that its funds are limited and that certain guidelines and principles must be followed. In spite of the foregoing rebuttal to your individual points, Mr. Simonsen, we are as a Board taking your general views to heart and will continue to actively discuss our role in the development of the heritage movement in British Columbia.

**Michael Young, Chairman  
British Columbia Heritage Trust**

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# The Artifact

## Ownership Question

by

*Bjorn O. Simonsen and Arthur S. Charlton*

*ONE QUESTION* which is rarely raised, either by those opposed to the export of cultural property or those who regulate such export, is that of property ownership. Who is the legal owner of cultural property?

The question of property ownership should be of vital concern to those who administer the Cultural Properties Export and Import Act, as well as to anyone who is making collections of cultural properties or is responsible for the accessioning and care of such collections. Yet nowhere in the Act, its regulations, or in the forms relating to the application for a Cultural Property Export Permit, is the question of ownership raised. It is simply assumed that the possessor is the legal owner.

Although most museums and similar institutions now require a donor to waive ownership rights to an object or collection being donated, most do not challenge the donor's claim of ownership. And what about collections made in the past by archaeologists, ethnologists, and curators, before waiver forms were in common use? We venture to guess that the repositories of such collections, be they small local museums, provincial museums, universities, or even the National Museums of Canada, could not demonstrate proof of ownership for at least half of their collections.

Before examining the various legal concepts of property ownership, we must define what is meant by the term "property." Property includes everything which is or may be the subject of ownership, whether this be legal,

beneficial, or private. Property, in the sense of cultural property, can be either "personal" (where a person has sole and exclusive right and possession of movable chattels) or "public" (those things that are considered as being owned by the public, *i.e.* state, nation, or municipality). The above exclude "real property" which is usually synonymous with land.

It must be noted that "ownership" and "possession" are distinct and separate concepts, even though the two often go together. "Ownership" in property constitutes the collection of rights to use and enjoy property, including the right to transmit it to others. "To own" property is to have bonafide legal title to hold and possess such property.

Usually, one acquires property by means of purchase or bequest. It is assumed that the vendor or donor already has title to said property, and usually such claims are not challenged. Where ownership claims are made over property which has been "found" (as with artifacts from archaeological excavations), and for which no immediate or recent owner can be traced, two questions must be considered under the "common law":

1. Was the object abandoned intentionally?
2. Was there an intent to hide or bury the object(s) for safekeeping?

Generally, if an object was abandoned it becomes the property of the finder. If it appears to have been buried or hidden with the specific purpose of preserving or protecting, with the possibility of the owner coming back to retrieve



the object, it falls into the safekeeping category. Objects in the latter category are considered to be the property of the Crown, which holds them in trust for the original owner, should he/she ever be identified, or his/her heirs identified.

Prehistoric archaeological materials which were abandoned become the property of the finder, while objects originally secreted belong to the Crown. However, the general rule of finders keepers could be questioned if such materials were found on private property. In such cases, legal opinion tends to vest ownership in the person having legal title to the land upon or within which abandoned objects were found. There is also the question of actually being able to prove whether or not an object was in fact intentionally abandoned or secreted.

This point remains unresolved but obviously has a major bearing upon the question of legal ownership of archaeological collections from sites on private land. For the Crown to claim ownership of *all* prehistoric archaeological material would require it to exercise its right of "eminent domain", whereby a state may assert its dominion over land and other property for the common good.

In questions of ownership based on Common Law, Eminent Domain and Treasure Trove (money, gold, silver, etc., found hidden in the earth), courts tend to rule in favour of the Crown.

Although not considered law, the UNESCO Conventions of 1956, 1970, and 1972, relating in part to the question of cultural property ownership, recognize the concept that ownership of such objects should be vested in the state. The Conventions make provision for individual states to define what is meant by "cultural property" as well as "archaeological

subsoil" and recommend state ownership for both. The latter arrangement is similar to existing Canadian regulations affecting mineral rights. Unfortunately, most federal, state, and provincial governments in North America have not enacted legislation complementary to the UNESCO Conventions as this would compromise traditional concepts of private ownership.

Canadian provincial statutes are highly variable on the question of ownership of archaeological resources and objects. Very few provinces address the issue of ownership in their antiquities legislation in any detailed manner. Only Alberta and Saskatchewan provide "all encompassing statements" respecting the Crown's right to ownership. Most others have the means (usually through the "designation" or "permit" process) to regulate the export of antiquities from the province. Unfortunately, however, the validity of all such laws and regulations is questionable since to our knowledge they have neither been enforced nor challenged in the courts.

Provincial jurisdictions can, nonetheless, resolve the problems and weaknesses of the Federal Export and Import Act, either by enforcing existing provincial laws or by amending their antiquities legislation to provide controls over the export of heritage objects from their own jurisdictions. Such a move would probably be opposed by the Federal Government since it would usurp the powers of the Export-Import Act and also require the National Museums to obtain provincial permits for the transfer of antiquities to Ottawa institutions.

We believe that the benefits to the people of Canada far outweigh any short term inconveniences or jurisdictional hangups such a system might pose for federal jurisdictions. It gives provinces the right to determine their own course in terms of heritage planning and development, and it permits them to exercise an already established right, namely that of jurisdiction over matters of property. Such a system would also make decisions regarding the export of antiquities more realistic in terms of the public good, rather than the "no win" situation presently inherent in the Federal Export-Import Act.

*Excerpted from a paper presented at the  
1984 Annual Meeting of the  
Canadian Archaeological Association — Ed.*

*IN BRITISH COLUMBIA only designated heritage objects are prevented from leaving the province without permit. In such cases, objects can only be designated at the provincial level (i.e., by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council). In B.C. heritage objects cannot be designated at the municipal level—only buildings, structures, and land. Heritage objects by definition in the Heritage Conservation Act of British Columbia are defined as "personal property of heritage significance".*



# Identifying Cartilaginous Fish Remains

by Rebecca Wigen and Kathryn Bernick

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL** assemblages from the Northwest Coast might contain remains of three varieties of cartilaginous fishes: Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), Ratfish (*Hydrolagus colliei*), and Skate (*Raja spp.*). Only a few elements preserve, since the skeletons are largely cartilage.

**Vertebrae:** The central portions of dogfish and skate vertebrae are bony and are often present in coastal middens. They have a distinctive "hour glass" shape with a constricted midline or "waist." Often the vertebrae are found broken in half at the midline.

The anterior and posterior edges of dogfish vertebrae are connected by thin "supporting struts" which are not attached to the central portions of the vertebrae. These "struts" are easily broken and are often missing from archaeological specimens.

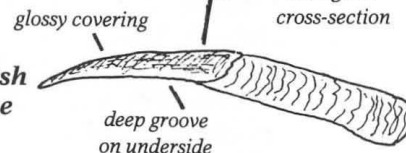
On skate vertebrae the "supporting struts" are thickened ridges that are attached to the body of the vertebrae throughout their length.



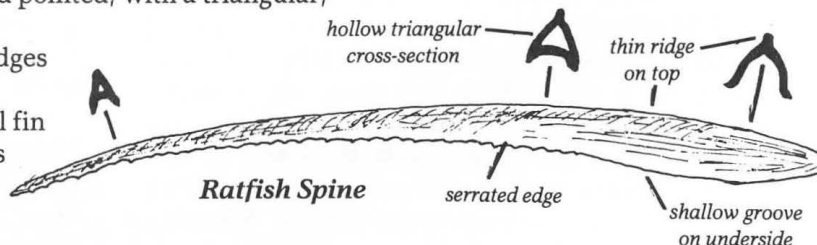
Skate Vertebrae



Dogfish Spine

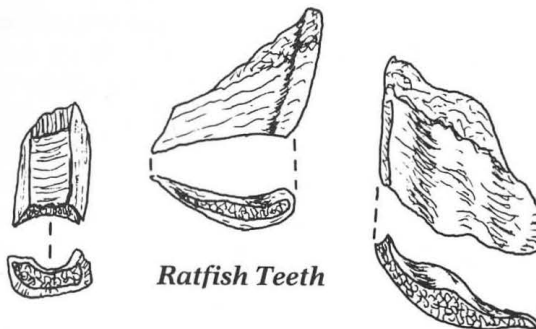


**Dorsal Fin Spines:** The dogfish has two dorsal fin spines, ratfish one, and skate none. The general shape is the same: slightly curved and pointed, with a triangular, hollow cross-section. The dogfish spine has rounded edges and a deep groove on the underside. The ratfish dorsal fin spine is much longer and has sharper edges.

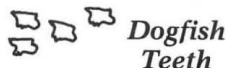


Natives of the Northwest Coast used dorsal fin spines as tools, and sometimes abrasion can be seen near the tip. One should, however, be careful to distinguish between "natural" and "cultural" abrasion.

**Teeth:** Ratfish teeth are often present in faunal assemblages from the Northwest Coast. To the uninitiated they resemble fragments of shell or horn. Dogfish teeth are very small and normally would only be recovered in fine-screened samples.



Ratfish Teeth



Dogfish Teeth

Drawings by Kathryn Bernick. Scale: 1:1

# The Underwater Archaeology of Straits Salish Reef-

by N. Alexander Easton

*REEF-NETTING* is a unique form of fishing that was practiced by the aboriginal inhabitants of southern Vancouver Island, the Gulf and San Juan Islands, and the adjacent shores of Washington State. These people are collectively known to us as the Straits Salish and include speakers of Sooke, Songish, Saanich, Samish, Lummi, and Semiahmoo.

Directed towards the harvesting of sockeye and humpbacked salmon, reef-netting involved anchoring a net between two canoes above or beside a reef which lay along the salmon's migration course. Significantly, these net anchors, comprising available beach stones, were abandoned at the end of each fishing season and new ones were laid the following year.

The technique was apparently highly productive but also labour intensive. Several thousand fish might be caught in a day, but a crew of 8 to 12 men was required to work the gear, and considerably more individuals were needed to clean and process the catch ashore.

The literature on reef-netting includes brief ethnographic accounts by people such as Boas, Jenness, and Stern; and more extensive information by Suttles. In addition to descriptions of the actual practices and productive techniques, the division of labour and other social relations associated with reef-netting, Suttles notes nearly 50 reef-net locations at about 25 separate sites utilized by the Straits peoples.

Compared with this relative wealth of ethnographic information, the literature on the archaeology of reef-netting is sparse indeed, limited to a single brief report by Rozen (*The Midden*, Vol. XIII No. 1:9-10), which established that accumulated anchor stones remained as evidence of past reef-netting activities at Point Roberts.

My current research is directed towards providing a more extensive understanding of both the archaeology and sociology of reef-netting.

Under the tutorage of the University of Victoria's M.A. program in anthropology and with financial support by the B.C. Heritage Trust, I have initiated a research effort designed to achieve the following goals:

- verification by underwater search of ethnographically recorded reef-net locations;
- underwater survey of these "discovered" locations, recording the nature and extent of each site by mapping and photography;
- obtaining a representative sample of measurements of the anchor stones: their size, shape, and weight;
- estimation of the number of anchor stones present at each site in order to determine the relative use and age of the site;
- collection of any outstanding or significant artifacts, as well as the recovery of a number of stones from each site for analysis and comparison;
- association of reef-net fishing sites with their probable land based processing camps.



entrance to Bedwell Harbour, Pender Islands) were eventually successful. It lies adjacent to and north of the marked reef at Lat. 48°44.3'N, Long. 123°13.7'W.

A preliminary survey of this site is abstracted in Fig. 1, which portrays a series of radial measured observations recorded every 45 degrees. Each metre along these radials the nature of the bottom was noted, and every three metres a count of observable anchor stones was made within a 2x2 m area.

Obvious drawbacks to this survey format, originally chosen for ease of execution, include an increase in sample error the further one extends from the centre, an inability to generate a statistically significant sample, and difficulties conducting comparisons with other sites. Consequently, the next site will be surveyed more traditionally, that is, by laying a grid system on the site. While initial set up of this system will be more expensive and time consuming, I anticipate significant benefits in the form of sample control, comparative data, easier mapping, and improved volunteer orientation.

Without comparative material little can be confidently said about reef-netting in general, but several observations on the nature of this particular site are possible.

First, the orientation of the stones to the reef and the direction of the prevailing tidal currents indicate that at this site the net was probably operated on the flood tide, the natural reef serving as a funnel up toward the net.

Secondly, the variation in anchor stone shape is greater than ethnographic accounts indicate. At no point was a "typical" anchor stone

observed (see Fig. 2A). The lack of rounded beach cobbles and boulders, and the predominance of sandstone in the immediate area, led to the utilization of stones shaped as those in Figs. 2B and 2C. This finding should greatly assist future attempts to locate sites. Subsequent searches included an initial appraisal of the form of easily accessible beach stones, in order to have a better idea of what to look for below the tide line.

No data of substance have yet been generated regarding size or weight of anchor stones. Though I can estimate a range in size between 0.75 and 1.5 m, with weights perhaps between 10 and 50 kg, I have yet to devise a practical system for weight measurements underwater.

According to ethnographic reconstructions, four distinct anchor accumulations corresponding to the four corners of the net should be manifest. This would be so only if we assume that the anchors were laid at approximately the same locations each season, and that their initial deposition was not subsequently altered. The first assumption is defensible on the grounds that site ownership was clearly defined and maintained on "mental maps" once the most productive position of the net was determined. However, a combination of tidal current action and gravity would negate the second assumption, as the built up accumulations would tend to disperse over time. Consequently, the sample survey does not reveal the expected pattern of anchor deposition.

The antiquity of reef-netting is a central concern at all stages of my research. For reasons which space does not allow me to go into here, it is my working hypothesis that the technique is a

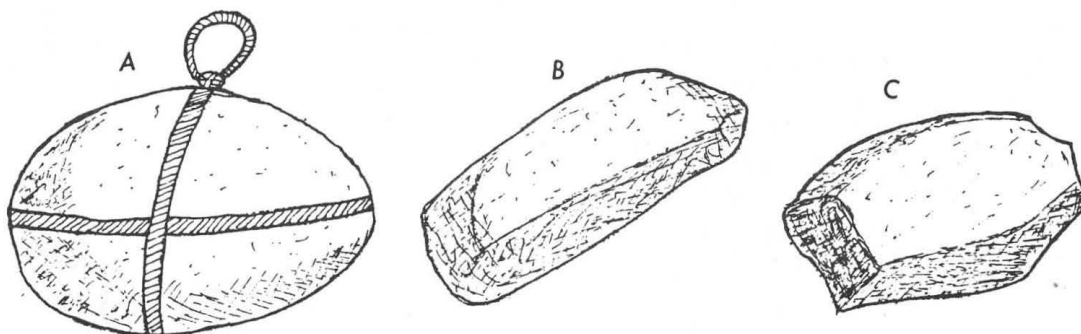


Figure 2: Representative reef-net anchor stones: A, "typical"; B, C, examples from Site 17 (not to scale).



relatively recent addition to the subsistence repertoire of the Gulf of Georgia culture area, perhaps no older than the end of the 17th century. It is my impression that *Site 17* supports this view.

If we consider that between 10 and 12 stones per corner were laid each season, we would expect an increase of stones at a site at an approximate rate of 40 a year (400 in 10 years, 4,000 in 100 years). There are 359 designated anchors in my current sample, and probably (though I stress this is based on crude calculations) less than 3,000 at the entire site. Since sampling of a defensible statistical nature and comparative data are yet lacking, such a figure must be regarded as provisional. Still, it does serve as a "least date," that is, this site, saw at least 75 seasons of use prior to its abandonment in the late 19th century.

The processing camp associated with this site is located at Hay Point, about 600 m across the harbour, where there is ready canoe access to a point which receives daily thermal winds suitable for drying fish.

A series of dives at McCauley Point, Esquimalt, have discovered possible anchor stone accumulations at a site originally recorded by Wilson Duff. No evidence of reef-netting activity has been found off Beechey Head (Suttles' *Site 3*).

Suttles' *Site 4* has been located off Smythe Head, Vancouver Island, and is currently being

surveyed. The camp was likely on the point itself.

\* \* \*

The importance of the final results of this project to our understanding of the Gulf of Georgia culture area is obvious. In addition, the type of research has significance for B.C. coastal prehistory in general.

The initiation of prehistoric underwater archaeology is long overdue in an area which was so heavily dependent on the coastal environment, and which has been subject to wide sea level fluctuations and occasional extensive shore line subsidence. It may well be that the most ancient sites on the coast will be found (if at all) below the current tide line. Certainly the current gap in the archaeological record for the southern coast, between about 5000 and 9000 B.P., is a function of the inundation of coastal sites by rising sea levels.

The ability to locate these sites is problematic, but the initial assumption that they exist is, I believe, sound. Sites are recorded in the intertidal zone, indicating the potential presence of sub-tidal sites. Archaeological access is only possible by the techniques peculiar to the SCUBA-equipped investigator. The type of research I am developing will lead us towards the excavation of such sites, and may well result in the verification of human occupation of this coast 12,000 years ago.

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## Sunken ship survey announced

*HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS* of Barkley Sound will be the subject of this year's survey by the Underwater Archaeological Society of British Columbia. The project will be financed with a \$13,760 grant from the B.C. Heritage Trust.

The UASBC is also planning an underwater excavation at the site of the 1872 wreck of the

bark *Zephyr*. The artifacts recovered will be incorporated into a display at Newcastle Island Provincial Marine Park.

Other 1985 projects include a salvage excavation of the "Sidney Inlet Mystery Wreck," and continuing the search for John Jacob Astor's ship the *Tonquin*.



# **Fraser Delta Archaeology**

## **at the UBC Museum of Anthropology**

### **Exhibit**

*CHANGING TIDES*--the development of archaeological research in the Fraser delta region. Opens Feb. 26, until Sept. 1, 1985.

### **Lectures**

Tuesday evenings at the Theatre Gallery. 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

- March 12**    **Dr. Roy Carlson:** Shell middens in culture history—the Pender Island site.  
*Followed by a tour of the exhibit CHANGING TIDES, and refreshments.*
- March 19**    **Dr. Donald Mitchell:** Two decades of Change—British Columbia  
archaeology in the 1960s and 1970s.
- March 26**    **Dr. Leonard Ham:** Shell middens in Coast Salish settlement patterns  
—new ideas from the investigations of the Crescent Beach and St. Mungo sites.
- April 2**      **Dr. Richard Daugherty:** Prehistoric lifeways at Ozette.

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## **HCB Switches to Quick-Printing**

*THE OCCASIONAL PAPERS SERIES* of the Heritage Conservation Branch has effectively ceased publication. None has been issued since early 1981, and according to Provincial Archaeologist Art Charlton, there is no indication of a thaw in the government freeze on spending for publishing. But the Branch has figured out a way to circumvent Restraint: it's called a photocopy machine.

Reports of two Hwys. salvage projects are currently being prepared for publication. One, by Henning Von Krogh, is on several small excavations conducted in 1976 near Spences Bridge. The second is Valerie Patenaude's report on three seasons (1978-1980) of excavation at the Pitt River Site. They will be simply produced, with small print runs, financed from the Dept. of Hwys. allocation to the Branch.

Two other manuscripts which had been accepted shortly before Restraint for publication in the *Occasional Papers* have apparently been forgotten. David Archer's analysis of a site near Hope would presumably lend itself to Hwys. funded quick-printing, since the excavation was part of a large Hwys. salvage project.

When reminded of this by *The Midden*, Charlton said that the several reports resulting from the Hope project could be the next to be published. He noted, however, that it would not be possible to do this with the second previously accepted manuscript, a report on the Deep Bay Site by Greg Monks, as that was not a Hwys. project. (It was financed by UBC and by other agencies of the B.C. Provincial Government, including the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board which is what the HCB used to be called.)

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# Book Review

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*Tahltan Ethnoarchaeology* by Sylvia L. Albright. Dept. of Archaeology, SFU, Publication No. 15. 1984. 127 pp., 53 figs., 14 tables. \$10.00 (paper).

AS *THE TITLE* implies, *Tahltan Ethnoarchaeology* is an ethnographic study conducted from an archaeological perspective.

The primary objective of the research is "to establish a model of traditional subsistence patterns of the Tahltan Indians useful for interpretation of archaeological sites in the Upper Stikine River area of northern British Columbia." Secondly, to contribute to the theoretical study of hunter-gatherer societies in general.

Using an ecological framework, Albright gives information on the environment, natural resources, and technology of exploitation. The data, though mostly culled from published and unpublished (archival) sources, include original

observations. Particularly interesting is her description of Tahltan women making and using stone tools for dressing hides.

The concluding chapters of the monograph present a seasonal model of subsistence and settlement patterns that indicates considerable mobility, variation in group size and composition, and distinctive archaeologically visible attributes (structures, implements, faunal remains).

*Tahltan Ethnoarchaeology* is a reassuring example that a technical report (an M.A. thesis at that!) can be written well. Unfortunately, the printing doesn't do it justice: the typeface is too bold, the spacing erratic, and the overall effect uninviting. In contrast, the illustrations are good, especially the photographs (all by Albright).

*Tahltan Ethnoarchaeology* will undoubtedly be useful for further research in the Stikine area. And it will certainly be required reading for anyone studying the ethnography or prehistory of Athapaskan Indians. Since it is well written and well illustrated, it will appeal beyond the professional community—although it is not exactly casual fare.

- Kathryn Bernick

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## Big Money for fur trade project

The B.C. Heritage Trust awarded \$300,000 under its Historical Archaeology Program for a study of land based fur trade in the northern interior of the province.

Joint directors of the three year project are Dr. Knut Fladmark (Archaeology, SFU), Dr. Arthur Ray (History, UBC), and Dr. Charles Bishop, an anthropologist at Oswego College, New York State. The research will be conducted from historic, ethno-historic, and archaeological perspectives.

The first phase of archaeological work, Fladmark told *The Midden*, will be to complete the analysis and report on previously excavated material from St. John's on the Peace River. Then, in 1986 and 1987, there will be new excavations at Rocky Mountain Fort, which is the oldest European settlement on the mainland of British Columbia.

Archival documentation will focus on the period prior to 1860.

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## Coquihalla Highway O.K. so far . . .

A survey by Arcas Associates along the southern half of the Merritt to Kamloops section of the new Coquihalla Highway found ten sites on the right-of-way. Nine of these are lithic scatters and one is an historic timber mill: only two were previously recorded.

According to Arcas partner Arnoud Stryd, highway construction will not directly conflict with any significant sites.

In addition to the archaeological assessment, the Arcas report includes a study of the Nicola Indians and traditional native use of the area. It is based on archival research and field interviews and was prepared by ethnology consultants Randy Bouchard and Dorothy Kennedy.

The second half of the highway corridor, from Surrey Lake to Kamloops, has not yet been surveyed. That work will be contracted separately, once the highway route has been decided.

## News Bits

### *Return to Pender planned*

Simon Fraser University will hold its 1985 summer field school on Pender Island. This will be the second season of excavation at the two shell midden sites. For more information contact the SFU Archaeology Dept. (Tel. 291-3135).

### *Trust funds inventory survey*

The Stein Heritage Committee was awarded \$6,000 by the B.C. Heritage Trust for an inventory of sections of the Stein River Valley near Lytton, the survey to be conducted by Arcas Associates.

### *Hat Creek analysis gets boost*

Dr. David Pokotylo (UBC) recently received a \$6,000 grant from the B.C. Heritage Trust to inventory Hat Creek artifact collections for computer analysis.

### *HCB annotates bibliography*

An annotated bibliography of all permit and non-permit archaeology reports on file with the Heritage Conservation Branch is now computerized. Printouts of entries for particular sites (regions, etc.) are available free of charge. Direct requests to Provincial Archaeologist Art Charlton.

### *Cave material will soon see light*

A final report on the historic burial caves in Hesquiat Harbour is nearing completion. Dr. James Haggarty (BCPM) received \$12,000 from the Friends of the Provincial Museum to contract out two specialized studies. Sharon Keen is analyzing the metal artifacts, and Kitty Bernick is working on the basketry and cordage. The material was recovered in the early 1970s as part of a major BCPM project on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

## Northwest Meetings

The annual Northwest Anthropological Conference will be held April 18-20, 1985 in Ellensburg, Washington. For details contact L. M. Klug, Dept. of Anthropology, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Washington 98926. Tel. (509) 963-3201.

## LOOK FOR/Magazine Articles:

- \* *Wildlife Lost* by Gay Frederick, discussing how faunal remains show that B.C. wildlife has changed since the prehistoric era. In **Wildlife Review** Vol. XI, No. 2 (Winter 1984/85), pp.30-31.
- \* An article by Kathryn Bernick describing archaeological evidence for prehistoric logging and forest product use on the Northwest Coast. In the forthcoming issue of **Whistle Punk**.



# Annual Index to *The Midden*, Journal of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia

Volume 16, 1984 (Published February, April, June, October, December)

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Compiled by Phyllis Mason

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## Heritage Cemetery Symposium



The Victoria Branch of the B.C. Historical Federation is sponsoring a symposium on heritage cemeteries in B.C. There will be formal papers, informal sessions, and a guided tour. That's April 27-28, 1985, in Victoria. More information from: Heritage Cemetery Symposium, 628 Battery St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1E5.

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