

**Lesson Plan:**

# S'Klallam Salmon Fishing

Recommended for Grades 5-8

Class Time required: 45 minutes or more.

---

**Materials:**

S'Klallam Salmon Fishing Student Information Sheet  
Organizational Chart for group assignment

---

**Anticipatory Set**

- Discuss with students that the main occupation of the S'Klallam was fishing. Although many species were fished, salmon were fished more than other species. Indians relied on materials found in their environment and their own ideas to devise ways to catch the fish.
- Students should be in groups of 3 or 4. Be sure the number of groups is an even number for an activity later in the lesson.
- In their groups, have students list as many ways as they can to catch salmon.

---

**Teacher Led Instruction**

Vocabulary Check:

weir, upriver, stabilize, webbing, gaff, nettle, twine, tapered, sinkers, trolling, cockle

---

**Guided and Independent Practice**

- Read and discuss the first paragraph of text from Student Information Sheet.
- Tell each group of students that, as a group they will be assigned one fishing method to read and then report about to other groups.
- As a tool for helping them organize this information, each group will complete the chart and plan a presentation that is to be no more than 3 minutes.
- Each student will present part of the information. Tell them how much time they have to read, discuss, complete the chart and plan their presentation.
- When students are ready to begin, pair groups to report to each other.
- Once all groups have had an opportunity to learn about all fishing methods then conduct a review of information learned.

**Suggested questions:**

- Why were salmon fished more than other species?
- Why were there so many different ways to fish salmon?
- Why were salmon fished year round?
- Name 2 traits all fishing methods had in common.
- Name an example of tribal members sharing resources.
- Give examples of jobs in our community that require teamwork and/or sharing of resources.
- What materials were used in making a weir?
- What materials were used in making nets?
- Explain how canoes were used in fishing salmon.
- Where was the largest number of salmon found?
- How were salmon traps similar to nets?
- What were some of the problems faced by Indians while fishing for salmon?
- If you could ask a question of an Indian salmon fisherman, what would the question be?
- Can you think of another way to catch salmon? What materials would you use?

---

**Closing**

Have student read the lists they wrote at the beginning of the lesson. Discuss with them whether or not they guessed any of the ways salmon were fished. Why or why not?

Discuss with them what the Indians needed to know about salmon in order to fish them successfully. How did they acquire this knowledge? Have them support their ideas with facts they have learned.

---

**House of Seven Generation Resources**Documents-Hunting and Gathering Practices

p. 246	<a href="http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JFR,3122">http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JFR,3122</a>
p. 340	<a href="http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JFR,3216">http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JFR,3216</a>

Documents-Identity, Treaty, Status and Fisheries of the Jamestown Clallam Indian Community

p. 56	<a href="http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JFR,2585">http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JFR,2585</a>
p. 57	<a href="http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JFR,2586">http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JFR,2586</a>
p. 58	<a href="http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JFR,2587">http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JFR,2587</a>

Artifacts-Myron Eells Collection

ME002	salmon club	<a href="http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/mea,16">http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/mea,16</a>
ME011	net needles	<a href="http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/mea,4">http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/mea,4</a>
ME012	fishing implement	<a href="http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/mea,5">http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/mea,5</a>
ME013	fishing weights	<a href="http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/mea,6">http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/mea,6</a>
ME019	spear thrower	<a href="http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/mea,15">http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/mea,15</a>

---

**Resources from Jamestown S'Klallam Library**

Anonymous, The Information on the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Jamestown Tribal Library, Sequim, Washington. pp. 32-33, 51-55

Castile, George, editor , The Indians of Puget Sound, The Notebooks of Myron Eells, 1985, University of Washington Press: Seattle, Washington. p. 153-63

Gunther, Erna, Klallam Ethnography, 1927, University of Washington Press: Seattle, Washington. p.198-202

Stewart, Hilary, Indian Fishing, 1977, Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver, B.C. pp. 33-45, 56-8, 65-7, 71-75, 79-123

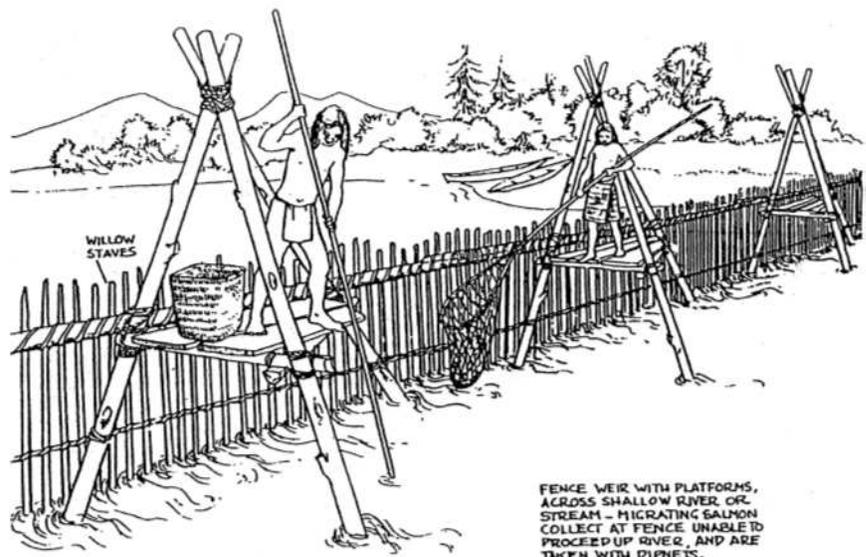
Stauss, Joseph, The Jamestown S'Klallam Story, 2002, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe: Sequim, Washington. p. 3-9

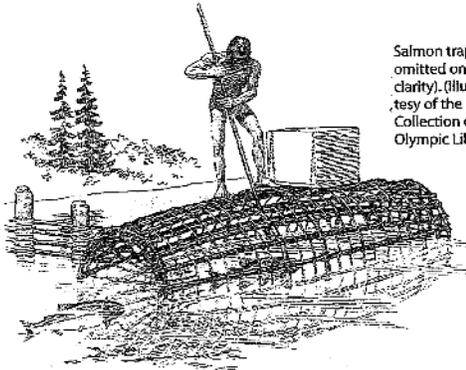
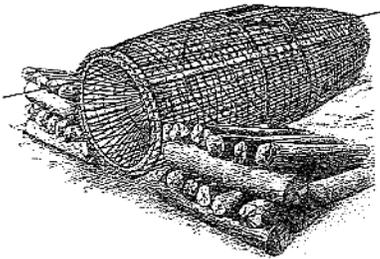
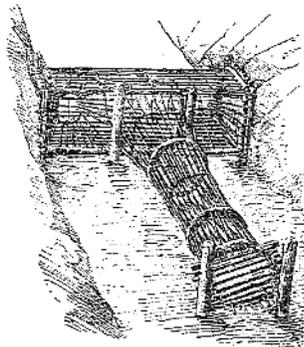
# S'Klallam Salmon Fishing

The S'Klallam people were known for being accomplished fishermen. Although many species of fish were harvested, salmon was of primary importance as a sustainable food source with the salmon returning to the rivers, creeks and streams where they began their life cycle. Fishing was done in salt water and in fresh water rivers and streams by the S'Klallam in their territory on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Much of the year was taken up in following the different runs of salmon, extending from the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the Hamma Hamma River in Hood Canal. The S'Klallam people fished in groups or individually. Various fishing methods were employed. Methods used included: spearing fish, using traps, using dip nets, bag nets and reef nets, trolling, using wicker baskets and building weirs and fences.

## Salmon Traps

Most rivers and creeks had a salmon trap or fish weir to catch salmon as they went upstream. The fence weir was built across a river or stream. Rows of poles were driven into the riverbed at an angle so they crossed at the top above the water and then tied with cedar limbs. Poles were secured in the V above where the slanted poles were tied. One horizontal pole was just above the water and the other was below. Upriver, longer poles were driven into the riverbed and near the sides of the river. These poles stabilized the weir. Webbing was placed upstream and underwater against the poles so that the current would hold it in place. This webbing is made from small fir trees about 6 feet in length, tied together. A trap was constructed, sometimes forming a pocket. A platform was built above the trap where the fisherman stood and speared the fish or used a gaff hook. Sometimes a net was used. The owner allowed others to use his weir during the day, but he preferred night time use because more salmon could be caught at night. Other traps were used for various salmon species.





Salmon trap (the weir is omitted on one side for clarity). (Illustration courtesy of the Bert Kelliogg Collection of the North Olympic Library System)

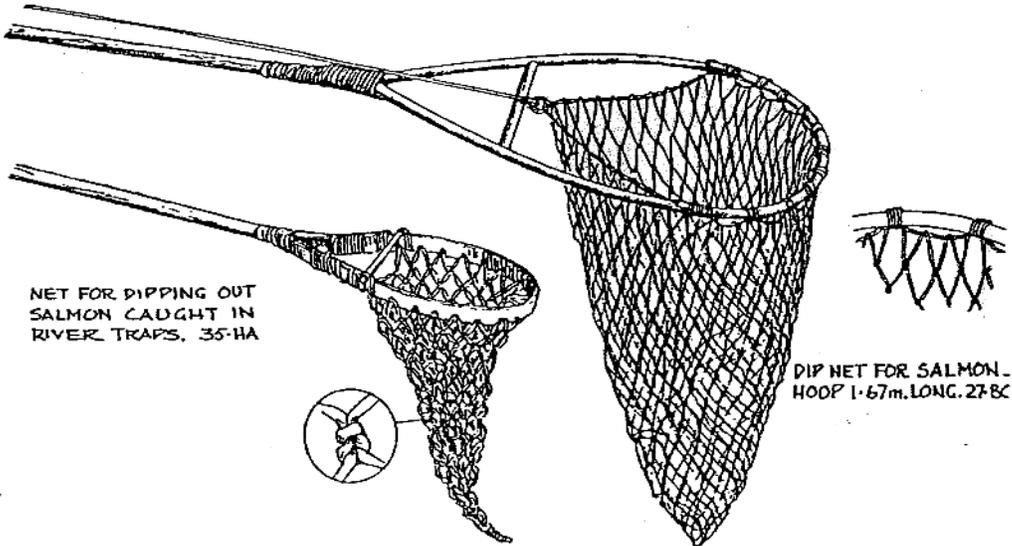
Salmon traps for narrow streams. (Illustration courtesy of the Bert Kelliogg Collection of the North Olympic Library System)

**Nets**

A river net often consisted of a basket made from nettle twine about 6 feet long and 6 feet across at the mouth. The mouth of the net could be closed using drawstrings. The other end of the net was tapered. Two fishermen would carry the net between them, grasping poles that had been fastened to both sides of the mouth of the net.

Nets attached to poles were also used to dip out salmon caught in traps and weirs.

Nets were floated on cedar poles in the spit area of the sound. Strings were attached to the sides of the net to haul it in when full. The bottom of the net had sinkers. From a canoe the fisherman would cast the net down where the salmon were feeding on the spawning herring. When the fisherman felt the net was full he would haul it in.

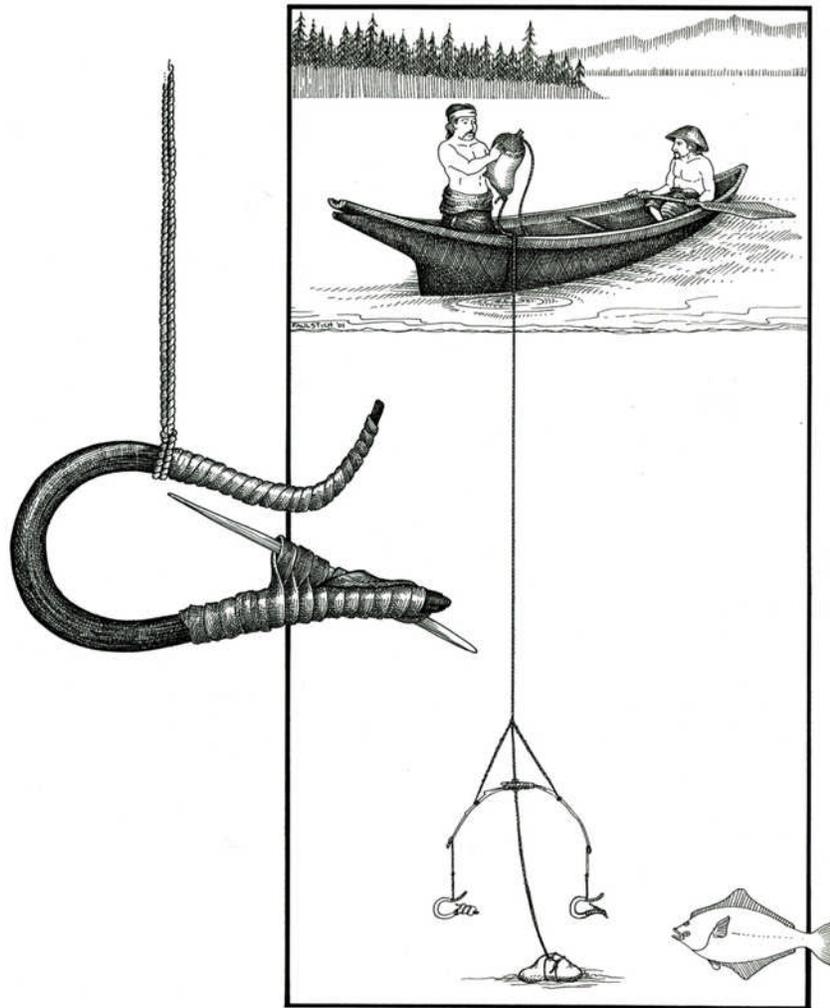


NET FOR DIPPING OUT SALMON CAUGHT IN RIVER TRAPS. 35-HA

DIP NET FOR SALMON. HOOP 1.67m. LONG. 27-8C

## Trolling

Trolling for salmon took place inside Dungeness Spit in the morning or the evening. A two pronged hook was fastened to a line. The shorter of the two prongs was sharper to secure the fish. Attached to the middle of a 30 foot line was a stone sinker. Trolling was done from a canoe with more than one fisherman. Cockles were often used for bait. Once a salmon bit, the line with the salmon was quickly and skillfully flipped into the canoe.



## Spears

Spears were not only used at weirs and traps but other places as well. Humpback salmon were sometimes speared on the spit before they went upstream. Salmon were speared from canoes by teams of men. One would paddle the canoe while the other speared the salmon from either a sitting or kneeling position. A fish spear was usually 15 to 20 feet long with the handle made of fir and the pointed ends made of a harder wood, possibly maple. Sometimes spears were used at night with a torch to see the fish.



Fish	Time	Method of Catching
Spring Salmon	Mid-April to July	Trap; trolling; gill net
Dog Salmon	Late July	Gill net; trap
Humpback	August to end of October	Trap; speared; line fishing
Silver Salmon	October through December	Trap; line fishing in river; gill net outside of spit; speared at night
Dog Salmon	Follow Silver Salmon	
Steelhead	December, January, February	Trap; line fishing in river

## Salmon Fishing Method

---

Materials used:

Describe how tool was made:

Describe how it was used:

Describe where this method was used:

Describe how tribal members worked together to fish this way: