

Archaeological Investigations at the Salmon Beds

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Faunal Remains

Susan Crockford of Pacific Identifications Inc examined identifiable faunal remains. Sixty-five elements were identifiable to class, family or species (Table 3). Ms. Crockford made the following observations:

Most if not all of the small ungulate is probably deer, and most of the really identifiable bits appear to be white-tailed rather than mule deer. Most of the large ungulate appeared to be elk, although a bit of what could be cow or bison was identified. A few bits of dog were recovered, some of it as small as the smallest prehistoric dogs I have seen for BC (see Crockford 1997), and some as large as the common "village dog". None were coyote or wolf.

The fish bones were all identified as sucker, quite large ones (ca. 40-45 cm, as compared to those of known length in the U. Vic. collection). One otolith of a large burbot (much larger than ca. 30 cm fish in the U. Vic. collection) was recovered from one of the lower levels. The salmon all appear to be large Chinooks. (Letter Report of September 20, 1999).

From Level 1 (0-5 cm), one phalanx and one main metacarpal were deer (*Odocoileus* sp.), one proximal phalanx was elk (*Cervus elephus*), one mandible ramus was from a large ungulate, and two elements were from a sucker (*Catostomus* sp.).

From Level 2 (5-10 cm), came a medial phalanx (White-tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginiana*), a femur, metapodial, carpal #3, intermediate carpal, and radial carpal (deer, *Odocoileus* sp.), a main metatarsal, a proximal phalanx, an unidentifiable phalanx and a sesamoid (large ungulate), otolith (Chinook Salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and an unidentifiable vertebra and unidentified fragments of an undetermined large land mammal.

From Level 3 (10-15 cm) were recovered 3 otoliths (Chinook salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), four teeth (White-tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginiana*), a proximal phalanx (Beaver, *Castor canadensis*), and a long bone shaft of an undetermined large land mammal.

From Level 4 (15-20) were recovered a tibia and a tooth (Deer sp., *Odocoileus* sp.), 2 teeth and other bone fragments from a very large ungulate.

From Level 5 (20-25) were recovered 3 otoliths (Chinook salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*).

From Level 6 (25-30) were recovered 1 otolith (Chinook salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and a metapodial (Deer, *Odocoileus* sp.).

From Level 7 (30-35) were recovered 1 otolith (Burbot, *Lota lota*), and a scapula blade from a large ungulate.

From Level 8 (35-40) came 2 teeth from a very large ungulate.

Identifiable bones in the surface collection included a humerus, main metacarpal, a scapula (White-tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginiana*); a radius and a main metatarsal (deer, *Odocoileus* sp.); a femur, central tarsal, and 3 teeth (Elk, *Cervus elephus*); a thoracic vertebra and main metatarsal (Cow/Bison, *Bos/Bison*); a medial accessory phalanx (Black bear, *Ursus americanus*); an innominate/pelvis, mandible, radius, and ulna (Dog, *Canis familiaris*); an Operculum and a Preoperculum (Sucker, *Catostomus* sp.); and a long bone shaft of an undetermined large land mammal.

The most common faunal remains from the Salmon Beds appear to be Chinook Salmon (Levels 2, 3, 5 and 6), and deer (Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 6). Other ungulates were being exploited as well, especially elk and possibly bison. Other fish in the sample include Burbot and Sucker. A small amount of beaver and bear is also present at the site. All of the dog bones are complete and were not likely to have been eaten.

Table 3 Identified bone by element and species.

DBS	ELEMENT	SPECIES NAME	COMMON NAME	AGE CLASS
0-5	Phalanx, proximal	Odocoileus sp.	Deer sp.	adult/ subadult
0-5	Mandible, horizontal ramus	Artiodactyla (lg)	Ungulate (lg)	
0-5	Weberian vert. #1	Catostomus sp.	Sucker, undisting.	
0-5	Operculum	Catostomus sp.	Sucker, undisting.	
0-5	Main metacarpal (III/IV)	Odocoileus sp.	Deer sp.	adult/ subadult
0-5	Phalanx, proximal	Cervus elaphus	Elk	adult/ subadult
5-10	Femur	Odocoileus sp.	Deer sp.	juvenile
5-10	Phalanx, medial	Odocoileus virginiana	White-tailed deer	adult/ subadult
5-10	Phalanx, proximal	Artiodactyla (lg)	Ungulate (lg)	
5-10	Otolith	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Chinook salmon	adult
5-10	Carpal #3	Odocoileus sp.	Deer sp.	juvenile
5-10	Intermediate carpal	Odocoileus sp.	Deer sp.	adult/ subadult
5-10	Radial carpal	Odocoileus sp.	Deer sp.	adult/ subadult
5-10	Phalanx (undet)	Artiodactyla (lg)	Ungulate (lg)	
5-10	Sesamoid	Artiodactyla (lg)	Ungulate (lg)	adult/ subadult
5-10	Unidentified (fragments)		Undet.lg. land mammal	
5-10	Unidentified (fragments)		Undet.lg. land mammal	
5-10	Unidentified (fragments)		Undet.mammal	
5-10	Metapodial	Odocoileus sp.	Deer sp.	
5-10	Main metatarsal (III/IV)	Artiodactyla (lg)	Ungulate (lg)	
5-10	Vertebra (undet)		Undet.lg. land mammal	
10-15	Otolith	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Chinook salmon	adult
10-15	Otolith	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Chinook salmon	adult
10-15	Otolith			adult

		Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Chinook salmon	
10-15	Deciduous upper premolar 2	Odocoileus virginiana	White-tailed deer	juvenile/subadult
10-15	Deciduous upper premolar 3	Odocoileus virginiana	White-tailed deer	juvenile/subadult
10-15	Upper molar 3	Odocoileus virginiana	White-tailed deer	juvenile/subadult
10-15	Upper premolar 1	Odocoileus virginiana	White-tailed deer	juvenile/subadult
10-15	Phalanx, proximal	Castor canadensis	Beaver	adult
10-15	Unidentified (long bone shaft)		Undet.lg. land mammal	
15-20	Tibia	Odocoileus sp.	Deer sp.	adult/subadult
15-20	Tooth, undet.	Artiodactyla (v.lg)	Ungulate (v.lg)	
15-20	Tooth, undet.	Artiodactyla (v.lg)	Ungulate (v.lg)	
15-20	Unidentified (fragments)		Undet.lg. land mammal	
15-20	Deciduous lower premolar 2	Odocoileus sp.	Deer sp.	juvenile
15-20	Tooth, undet.	Artiodactyla (lg)	Ungulate (lg)	
20-25	Otolith	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Chinook salmon	
20-25	Otolith	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Chinook salmon	
20-25	Otolith	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Chinook salmon	
25-30	Metapodial	Odocoileus sp.	Deer sp.	adult/subadult
25-30	Otolith	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Chinook salmon	
30-35	Scapula, blade		Ungulate (lg)	
30-35	Otolith	Lota lota	Burbot	
35-40	Tooth, undet.		Ungulate (v.lg)	
35-40	Tooth, undet.		Ungulate (v.lg)	
surface	Radius	Odocoileus sp.	Deer sp.	juvenile/subadult
surface	Humerus	Odocoileus virginiana	White-tailed deer	adult/subadult
surface	Unidentified (long bone shaft)		Undet.lg. land mammal	
surface	Main metatarsal (III/IV)	Odocoileus virginiana	White-tailed deer	adult/subadult
surface	Femur	Cervus elaphus	Elk	adult/subadult
surface	Innominate	Canis familiaris	Dog	adult
surface	Operculum	Catostomus sp.	Sucker, undisting.	
surface	Preoperculum	Catostomus sp.	Sucker, undisting.	
surface	Main	Odocoileus	White-tailed	adult

	metacarpal (III/IV)	virginiana	deer	
surface	Thoracic vertebra (undet)	Bos/Bison	Cow/bison	subadult
surface	Mandibule	Canis familiaris	Dog	adult
surface	Scapula	Odocoileus virginiana	White-tailed deer	adult/subadult
surface	Radius	Canis familiaris	Dog	adult
surface	Ulna	Canis familiaris	Dog	adult
surface	Main metatarsal (III/IV)	Bos/Bison	Cow/bison	adult
surface	Central tarsal	Cervus elaphus	Elk	adult
surface	Lower premolar 2	Cervus elaphus	Elk	adult
surface	Upper premolar 3	Cervus elaphus	Elk	adult
surface	Upper molar 1	Cervus elaphus	Elk	subadult
surface	Accessory phalanx, medial	Ursus americanus	Black bear	adult

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