

Fishing camps

The prefreshet eulachon and sturgeon migrations are one of the two major spawning runs which take place on the Fraser River. While these fish could also have been obtained while camping at summer fishing village sites, only one site specifically used for the eulachon and sturgeon fishery was identified. This is the Tait Farm Site (DhRt 36 - see Chapter 4) which is thus unique, and as it has intact deposits, it is also significant site. DhRt 36 has been radiocarbon dated to 1,260 ± 100 B.P.

Summer fishing villages

Only one site has been positively identified as a summer salmon fishing village. This site is DgRs 17 which actually consisted of as many as five or six actual villages, 3 Cowichan, 1 Musqueam, and 1 Tsawwassen and probably 1 Saanich (Barnett 1975; Duff 1952; Rozen 1979; Suttles n.d.). Salmon could also have been obtained at those permanent house sites located near the major arms of the river. Several other midden sites may also have been summer salmon fishing villages (DhRs 26, DgRs 27, DhRs x).

Autumn fishing camps

This appears to be one of the most common types of archaeological sites in Richmond, although at the present time they are very poorly understood and the presence of intact deposits has not been established at any of them (see DhRt T86-3, DhRt 23, DhRt 37, DhRs 83, DhRs 81, DgRs x, and probably DhRs 82 and DhRs T86-5). These small settlements would have once been situated along the banks of every slough in Richmond which supported a salmon run. The Musqueam (at least wealthy families) maintained permanent smoke house structures at these sites while other people would have stayed in mat covered lean-tos (see Figure 5-1).

At present the best evidence for these sites is the distribution of hand mauls (and adze blades) near old sloughs. Support for this inference