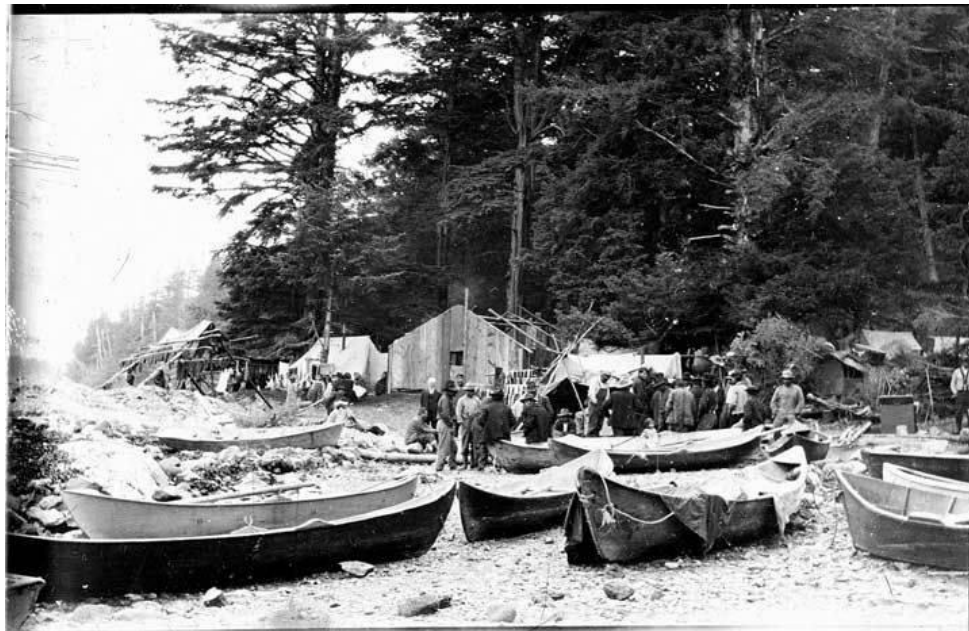


Traditional Tlingit Fishing

- In 1786 when La Pérouse visited Lituya Bay near Yakutat he and his crew observed this type of cylindrical basket traps being used. He noted:
“In this it will be seen, that the salmon, coming up the river, are stopped by the stakes; unable to leap over them, they turn back towards the sea; in the angles of the dike are placed very narrow wicker baskets, closed at one end, into which they enter, and being unable to turn in the, they are thus caught.” ~ The Tlingit Indians by George Thornton Emmons page 106
- Salmon are a staple food of the Tlingit. Fishing creeks and bays were **owned** by **clans** which gave them **exclusive fishing rights to that area**
- There are many fishing techniques including gaff, spears, hook and line, and various types of traps.
- Fish trap: sháal



Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

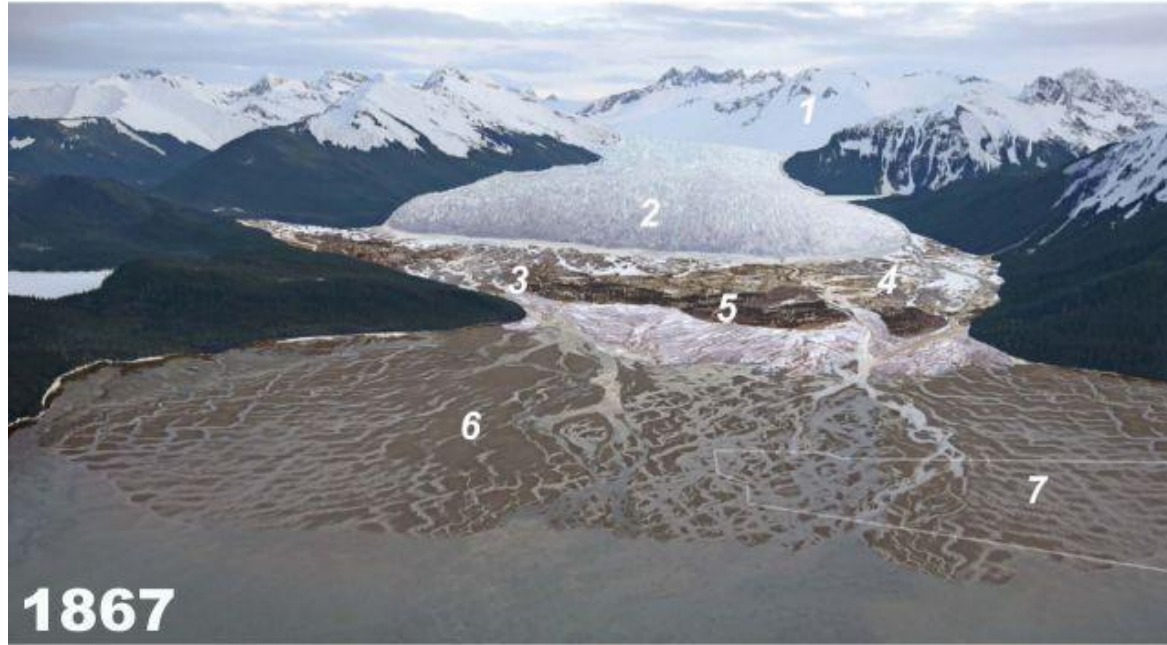
Title	Alaska native fish camp.	Identifier	ASL-P226-427
Collection Name	William R. Norton. Photographs. ca. 1890-1920. ASL-PCA-226		
Description	Crowd behind canoes pulled up on shore, tents, half-finished wood house, fish drying on racks.		

Kaxdegoowu Héen Sháali

- The **funnel** trap was first spotted in 1989 on the banks of Montana Creek in Juneau by Paul Kissner.
- The traditional caretakers of Montana Creek are members of the Dipper House of the L'eeneidí (Dog Salmon Clan) from the Raven moiety.
- An emergency excavation conducted by Wally Olsen) and Steve Henrikson, who removed the top part of the trap to prevent its loss due to erosion.
- Remainder of the trap salvaged in 1991
- Trap is 2.8 meters (9.2 feet) long, 1 meter (3.3 feet) wide.
- Analysis indicates longitudinal **staves** of hemlock, hoops of spruce branch , and lashings of spruce root.
- Radiocarbon dating indicates the trap is 500-700 years old.
- First trap of its kind to be excavated on the Northwest Coast.
- made by ancestors of the Tlingit people.



Kaxdegoowu Héén Sháali Location



Digitally manipulated photo by Richard Carstensen to show the area in 1867.. Number 3 indicates where the fish trap was found and how the area would have looked then.

The Replica

- Full scale detailed replica of the **cylindrical funnel** trap made with traditional techniques and materials of split hemlock ribs/staves to the spruce branch hoops using split spruce root twine.
- Replica made by Janice Criswell and Steve Henrickson.
- Tlingit art of spruce root basketry is still practiced today by many artists including Janice Criswell.
- Janice Criswell teaches Northwest Coast basketry at the University of Alaska Southeast. She learned to weave Raven's Tail robes and basketry from Cheryl Samuel and Delores Churchill.
- Steve Henrickson is the Curator of Collections at the Alaska State Museum in Juneau.



The Challenge

Think back to the **cylindrical funnel** trap used to trap the marble, what made it effective?

Design a trap:

- Choose an object to trap such as a marble, a linking cube, a coin, ect
- Using the materials you have gathered, design a trap that the object can be forced into but does not come out of easily.

Things to consider:

- How heavy is the object you are trapping
- How much pressure will have to be applied to get the object into the trap
- How much pressure would have to be applied to get the object out



Vocabulary

Funnel

Cylindrical

Hoop

Stave

Lashing

Weir(Qit)

Vocabulary Definitions

Funnel: a utensil that is usually a hollow cone with a tube extending from the smaller end and that is designed to catch and direct a downward flow

Cylindrical: relating to or having the form or properties of a cylinder.

Hoop: horizontal pieces of trap (spruce brunch on Montana Creek trap)

Stave: longitudinal pieces of trap (hemlock on Montana Creek trap)

Lashing: string-like material used to bind the hoops and staves together (spruce root on Montana Creek trap)

Weir (Qít): fences built across shallow rivers or angled to guide fish into traps. Some weirs were removable or partially removable and others were built into the riverbed.

Tlingit Vocabulary

Kaxdegoowu Héen

Kaxdegoowu Héen dei

Sháal

Kítx

Óot'

Dlagwáa

Xáat

Héen

S'ixwaadáa

Tlingit Vocabulary Translations

Kaxdegoowu Héen: Montana Creek

Kaxdegoowu Héen dei: trail to Montana Creek (literally 'going back clear water trail')

Sháal: fish trap

Kítx: short, cylindrical basket trap

Óot': rock pile fish trap

Dlagwáa: harpoon for salmon

Xáat: salmon

Héen: water, river, stream, creek

S'ixwaadáa: basket