

principles. The Lummi fishery replicated the structure of the non-Native fishery, especially its structural problems. Increasingly the Lummi fleet has been unable to support itself through participation in the salmon fishery alone. As a result the tribes have pushed to extend their treaty rights to other species, such as halibut, crab and bottom fish, and have purchased permits to fish in other areas, such as Alaska. Predictably as the Native people of British Columbia increase participation in the salmon harvest there will be movement to other species, such as halibut, herring, bottom fish and shellfish. This will inevitably generate similar problems that historically occurred in the salmon fishery. It is essential that the resolution of these problem areas be dealt with before the build-up of the Native fleet makes it impossible.

Conclusion

For the past twenty years the Coast Salish of western Washington have adjusted economically to guaranteed access to the salmon resource. While some individuals have prospered the fishery has not fostered economic growth at the tribal level. Unemployment on the reservations remains high and tribes have had to seek other avenues of economic development. The First Nations of British Columbia can learn a great deal from the western Washington example and take precautionary measures to avoid the pitfalls inherent in resource development. Particularly as the First Nations enter treaty negotiations with the federal and provincial governments the nature of use and control of natural resources is a contentious issue. There must be some guarantees to the fisheries resource built into the treaty process and the bands must consider alternative models of resource development as a means of utilizing the resource for the maximum good of all band members. Unfortunately the one treaty process that has