

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. The commission, however, is advisory, it has no regulatory powers and should a tribe disagree with the management recommendations it can choose to pursue its own course of action. Having twenty-four tribes involved in regulating the fishery, combined with the State of Washington and input from federal agencies, has created a regulatory nightmare. In British Columbia, where even more bands are involved, the allocation and management process is even more complex. The Sto:lo represent the largest Native fishery in British Columbia and they control the lower reaches of the Fraser River system. While the Sto:lo have organized there is no mechanism for inter-band management on a larger level. Thus far the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has assumed the management of the resource but systems of co-management are being worked out elsewhere in B.C. and will likely come into play on the Fraser system as well. Additionally the allocation within bands is an important consideration too. Management of the Lummi fishery is administered by the Lummi Fisheries Office, which answers to upper levels of administration directly responsible to the tribal council. The council, however, is within the control of purse seine owners and their families which administer the fishery in a way that benefits them directly. Purse seine vessels take upwards of two-thirds of the total Lummi harvest although they compose less than 10 percent of the total number of fishers. Immediately after the Boldt decision the tribe was in a position to enter the fishery as a tribal enterprise, but the lack of an allocation process discouraged tribalism. On the contrary, it precipitated stratification brought about by differential access to the resource. Though the Boldt decision returned the resource to the Lummi, the fishery was developed through external financing, external technology, and external management