

can live aboard for several days and therefore fish a considerable distance from home port. The present Lummi purse seine fleet consists of vessels ranging in cost from US\$100,000 to US\$750,000 each, with the net costing another US\$40,000 to US\$50,000. These vessels are drum operated, are 15 to 25 meters in length and require a crew of four or five. Purse seiners use a "power skiff," a four meter long boat with a powerful diesel engine used to haul the net around in a circle. Power skiffs represent another sizeable investment, from US\$15,000 to US\$20,000. The Lummi purse seine fleet increased from two in 1974 to thirty-five in 1992. Needless to say, most vessels are heavily financed by non-tribal lending institutions. With the increase in each gear type there was a concomitant need to increase catch to cover the capital investment and operating costs. It has been estimated that a purse seine vessel must yield over US\$265,000 annually to meet minimal operating costs, a power gill net US\$50,000 and a skiff gill net US\$25,000 (Boxberger 1989:173). With the allocation of salmon limited plus the other tribes seeking to increase their harvest of the allocation, it very quickly became apparent that the Lummi fleet had become seriously over-capitalized in a relatively short period of time. The major problem associated with over-capitalization is that most fishers operate at a deficit. It has been estimated that the average annual income of Lummi fishers is US\$5,000, far below the yield necessary to meet minimum operating expenses and achieve a moderate income (Boxberger 1989:173-174). In contrast to the guaranteed allocation in the Native fishery of western Washington, the Native people of B.C. have no guarantee that the right of harvest for sale will continue after 1998. As the Native fleet builds it will require a certain proportion of the resource to remain viable but if access to the resource is restricted the results could be