

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS: THE CANOE



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Indian canoe parade on Tulalip Bay, ca. 1912

Fourth of July Festivities at the Tulalip Indian reservation often included a parade of canoes, pulled past the spectators by the Indian School's small motor launch. Shown in this photo are several canoes of different sizes with Camano Head in the background. Negative Number: MOHAI 88.11.27



Lummi men trolling for salmon from canoe near Bellingham, Washington, ca. 1900

Man at rear of canoe paddles as the man in front bends over into the canoe. There is shoreline visible beyond them. Negative Number: NA689



Little canoe race, Tulalip Indian boys, ca. 1912

Canoe racing has been part of native culture in the Puget Sound area for many generations. Here, at the Tulalip Indian Reservation, two-person teams compete in small dugouts. The traditional Coast Salish notched-prow style of canoe can be seen, along with the Nuuchahnulth, or Nootka, style of canoe, second from left. The former became extremely rare by the middle of the century, as the latter became more numerous. Negative Number: MOHAI 88.11.25



Five canoes with nets cast into a large body of water. A few fishermen are in small boat. Negative Number: NA1937

Lummi men casting nets from canoes in water, Washington, ca. 1940



A group of men, woman and children are on the beach in front of cedar canoe with mast. Ozette Island is in background.
Negative Number: NA1072

Makah group with canoe on beach at Cape Alava opposite Ozette Islands, Washington, ca.1903

The Makah Indians built large ocean-going canoes which they used for whale hunting and for voyages around Puget Sound. By 1900, when this photo was taken, Makah canoes shared the waters with many large steamships and sailing craft. This photo, taken around 1900, shows two traditional vessels whose time is passing: a Makah sailing canoe and a large three-masted sailing ship.

Negative Number: MOHAI
88.33.25



Makah sailing canoe, 1900



This is a long view looking north up the beach at many canoes and houses. Negative Number: NA1278

Makah village with canoes in water, Neah Bay, Washington, 1905.

During his visit to Neah Bay in 1900, photographer Anders Wilse shot many pictures of the Makah's canoes. These carved cedar dugouts traveled miles out into the open ocean for whale hunting as well as for fishing and trading trips. Negative Number: MOHAI 88.33.122



Makah whale hunters landing their canoe at Neah Bay, 1900

A group of Indians is dragging a cedar dugout canoe towards the waters of Port Townsend Bay in late August 1899. In areas of frequent launchings and landings, the people cleared the beach rocks away, leaving open "canoe runs". These can still be seen on certain Olympic Peninsula beaches. Negative Number: Wilcox 5088



Indians launching their canoe at Port Townsend, August 30, 1899