

On the map, tribal and band territories are colored according to the most important, ^{and characteristic} food resources used, to form six ^{or regions} classes of resource use. The Indians of BC were food-gatherers, not food producers. All tribes fished, hunted, and gathered vegetable foods in various proportions. Regional patterns of economic life were set by the differences in the richness of the available food resources and in the techniques of utilizing them.

The colored areas on the map are tribal territories grouped
into regions based on the ^{most important} food resources used by the tribes.

- Seashore tribes. Main food resources: Salmon runs, saltwater fish, shellfish, sea-mammals, eulachon, herring spawn, seaweeds
- Maritime tribes: same as above but with strong emphasis on offshore resources (sea-mammals, halibut).
- Downriver tribes: salmon runs, river fish, eulachons. Access to some sea resources by travel or trade. Culturally related to seashore tribes.
- Upper tribes: Salmon runs still major ^{single} food staple, but hunting important during rest of year
- River-oriented hunting tribes: Land hunting more important than fishing, although salmon or other fish was caught or traded for in large quantities and was an important food. Caribou, deer, elk, moose, mtn goat, marmot most important food animals.
- Inland hunting tribes. Fishing of negligible importance. Upper Kootenay hunted beaver, Athapascans caribou, deer, moose etc.

NB: All tribes gathered vegetable foods as important part of diet. No agriculture was practised. Even seashore tribes practised some land hunting. Occupations shown are not exhaustive, only characteristic and dominant.

Resources common to all tribes of Province:

Berries, roots, shoots, nuts, moss, cambium
Deer, bear.

Resources of the offshore waters:

Sea-mammals (whale - Nootka only - , seal, fur seal, sea lion, porpoise,
sea-otter)
Halibut

Resources of inshore waters and rivermouths:

Salmon runs of creeks and rivermouths, creek fish, saltwater fish
(herring, herring spawn, cod, flounder, halibut), cutackon, shellfish
(clams, mussels, crabs, sea-urchins, etc), sea mammals, seaweeds

Resources of lower parts of main rivers:

Major salmon runs, trout, sturgeon. Access to saltwater resources.
Land mammals (mountain goat, deer, bear, beaver etc)

Resources of main rivers:

Salmon runs in season, freshwater fish. Land mammals

Resources of inland areas:

Land mammals - bison, caribou, deer, elk, moose, marmot,
beaver, etc.

Aboriginal Occupations

On the map the tribal territories are colored according to the dominant and characteristic pattern of resource-use of the tribes. The native Indians were ~~fischermen, hunters,~~ and food-gatherers, not cultivators or food producers. All tribes hunted, fished, and gathered in varying proportions. The differences in emphasis among ~~these~~ ^{these} varying food gathering activities, and ⁱⁿ the richness of the food resources used set the patterns of native economic life.

The dominant single food source was the seasonal salmon runs to every sizable creek along the coast and far inland up the ^{main} rivers. These runs patterned the seasonal activities of all the tribes except the inland hunting tribes beyond their reach. Some resources were available to all the tribes of the Province: vegetable foods (berries, roots, shoots, cambium, nuts, etc), some common land mammals (deer, black bear, etc), and common birds (ducks, geese etc). ^{But the regions differed in their main resources.} The coast was especially favored with additional resources: offshore were the sea-mammals and halibut most important to the seafaring tribes of the outer coasts; inshore were other fish of the salt water - cod, herring, herring-spawn, flounders -, clams, mussels, crabs, sea urchins, ^{edible} seaweeds; creeks and rivermouths provided salmon, eulachon, trout, sturgeon. ~~Closely related were~~ the tribes of the main rivers. This richness ^{supported} ~~allowed~~ a relatively dense population ~~to~~ and allowed a high degree of cultural development on the coast. Closely related were the tribes of ^{the} ~~the~~ lower parts of the main rivers, ^{the Nass, Skeena, Bella Coola and lower Fraser} rivers, whose wealth

of salmon and easy access by travel or trade to coastal resources allowed a similar development. Lower tribes farther up the Fraser and Skeena systems and in the upper Columbia mixed fishing and ^{land} hunting in more equal measure; along the main river courses, salmon was the ~~the~~ main food staple, farther upstream the fish were an important food, but hunting was the more important economic activity. Beyond the Pacific drainage area fish failed as an important food resource, and life was dominated by the pursuit of game. In the southeast, the Upper Kootenay made trips across the Rockies to hunt the bison of the plains; elsewhere in the province, caribou, deer, elk, moose, marmot, beaver and other mammals were the staple foods.