

## Traditional Salmon Conservation Methods

Conserving salmon populations was vital to most First Nations in BC in the past.

Here are some of the ways that salmon stocks were traditionally conserved:

- World view, cultural protocols and oral traditions entrenched respect for the salmon and recognize the spiritual connections people have with salmon. At the beginning of the season they usually held a First Salmon ceremony.
- Selective fishing technologies. People fished salmon using techniques that were selective, or allowed them to harvest certain types and release others. This relies on knowledge of the right equipment to use at a certain time in a certain place. Knowledge was also need to fish selectively for the particular species of salmon being caught, the time of year, and other factors.
- People limited the number of salmon they took at any one fishing site. They understood the capacity of the river or stream, and made sure to let enough salmon move upstream.
- People looked after salmon spawning habitats. For example they cleared obstructions from a stream to make sure salmon could make their way upriver.
- Some First Nations were known to have improved the productivity of streams that had small runs by moving fertilized eggs from one creek to another.