



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

MEAGHAN EFFORD

BA Hons. (University of Victoria, 2016)

“*Ts’aZinwa* (gooseneck barnacles) as a proxy for archaeological efforts to understand shellfish as food in Nuu-chah-nulth territories”

Department of Anthropology

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

1:00 P.M.

Clearihue Building

Room B007

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Iain McKechnie, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Quentin Mackie, Department of Anthropology, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

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Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

This thesis examines the comparative abundance of shellfish from archaeological assemblages on the west coast of Vancouver Island in Nuu-chah-nulth territories. Eighteen sites spanning the Nuu-chah-nulth region emphasize the diversity in invertebrate foods that have been consumed 150-5000 years ago: Yaksis Cave, Loon Cave, and Hesquiat Village at Hesquiat Harbour; Chesterman Beach; Spring Cove; Ts'ishaa, Ch'ituukwachisht (North and South), Tl'ihuuw'a, Shiwitis, Huumuuwaa, Maḵtl7ii, Huts'atwilh, Kakmakimilh, Kiix7iin, and Huu7ii. Invertebrate zooarchaeology is an understudied field that has the potential to impact ecological restoration and conservation efforts. Ubiquity, or frequency of occurrence, provides a measure of abundance for a target taxa or species through a percent presence/absence approach. Conventional methods of analysis, including weight-based quantification, primarily favour heavy and robust bivalves, such as clams and mussels, and diminish the presence of other frequently occurring invertebrates. Ubiquity-based quantification shows how frequently the 'other' shellfish have been utilized over time and across archaeological deposits. Gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes polymerus*) are often considered rare, an unimportant intertidal resource, but ubiquity-based analyses show that they are far more abundant than previously appreciated. A methodological combination of these two approaches shows vastly different perspectives on shellfish abundance, and this has implications for how the dietary role of shellfish is understood and discussed in archaeological discourse.