

FISHING AND HUNTING

Fish were speared, hooked, netted, or trapped. Fishing apparatus was fairly well developed and shows similarities with the technology of the Pacific coast.

FISH SPEARS. — There were two kinds of fish spears. One kind was the three-pointed gig and the other was a spear with detachable point. The gig had a long shaft of red fir which was jointed to the trident head by a wrapped joint that permitted the spear being taken down when carried. The side arms of the trident were of flexible wood, usually hackberry (*Celtis Douglasii* Planch), but had bone points driven in holes bored at the lower ends. These points projected inward and upward. The center arm was of wood tipped with bone and somewhat shorter than the side arms. The spread of the trident was about five inches and the length of the spear about eight feet. This spear was used at night in fishing from a canoe by the light of pitch torches. It was not thrown from the hand. The spear with detachable point was intended to be thrown; for this reason the spearhead was attached to the shaft, and the shaft held by a long braided cord. The shaft of the spear was about five feet long. It was not a plain shaft, like that of the gig-spear, but had its largest diameter near the middle, measuring about two inches, and from this point tapered toward both ends. The spearhead consisted of three pieces of bone and a socket of elderberry wood in which the end of the shaft was fitted. The three bone pieces were cut from the thickest portion of the leg-bone of an elk after this had been boiled. The center piece ended in the point. Against the straight flat edges of this center piece were fitted the side pieces which formed the barbs. The three pieces of bone and the short cylinder of elderberry wood were securely bound together with wrappings. A cord with one end buried in these wrappings was tied to the shaft about a foot from the head, with enough slack to allow the spearhead to be readily loosened from the shaft. Figure 5^{10, 11} illustrate the features of these two kinds of fish spears.

With this spear large numbers of salmon were caught from platforms built out over the water or from jutting ledges of

rock. The platforms were usually just above brush dams that almost closed the channel at the head of a riffle and which left only a small passage for the fish. Sometimes the fish were speared on riffles without the aid of the platform, and the brush dam. Suckers were speared from the bank as they nosed about the roots of willow and cottonwood trees that overhung the stream.

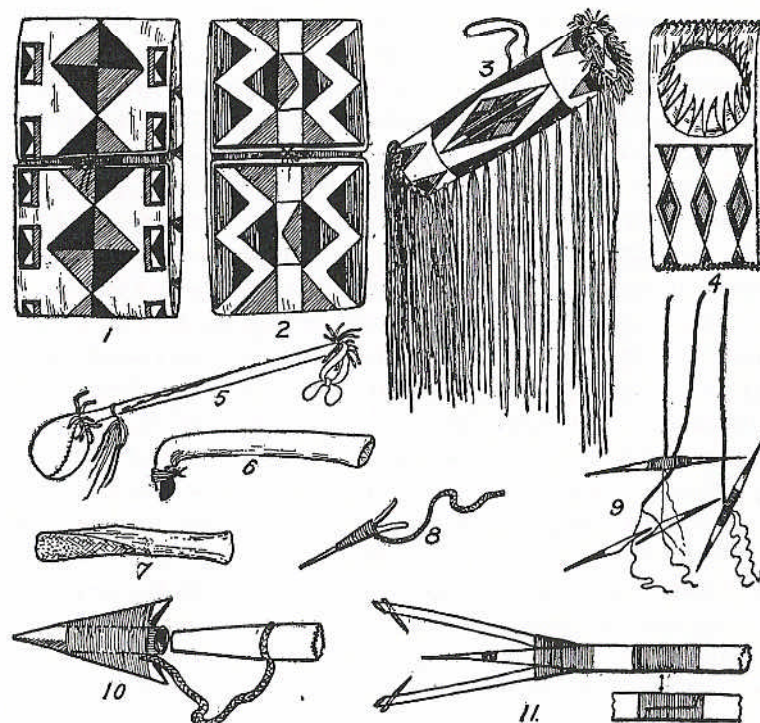


FIG. 5. — 1-2, Parfêche bags. 3, "Medicine" bag. 4, Elk-hide hat. 5, War-club. 6, Grainer. 7, Elk-horn wedge. 8-11, Fishing tackle.

Hooks. — The gaff-hook was entirely unknown before the coming of the whites, but was then promptly adopted. Even curved fish-hooks were unknown, the gorge-hook taking their place. Small gorge-hooks used in catching trout are shown in fig. 5⁹. The gorge-hooks were made of two hardened