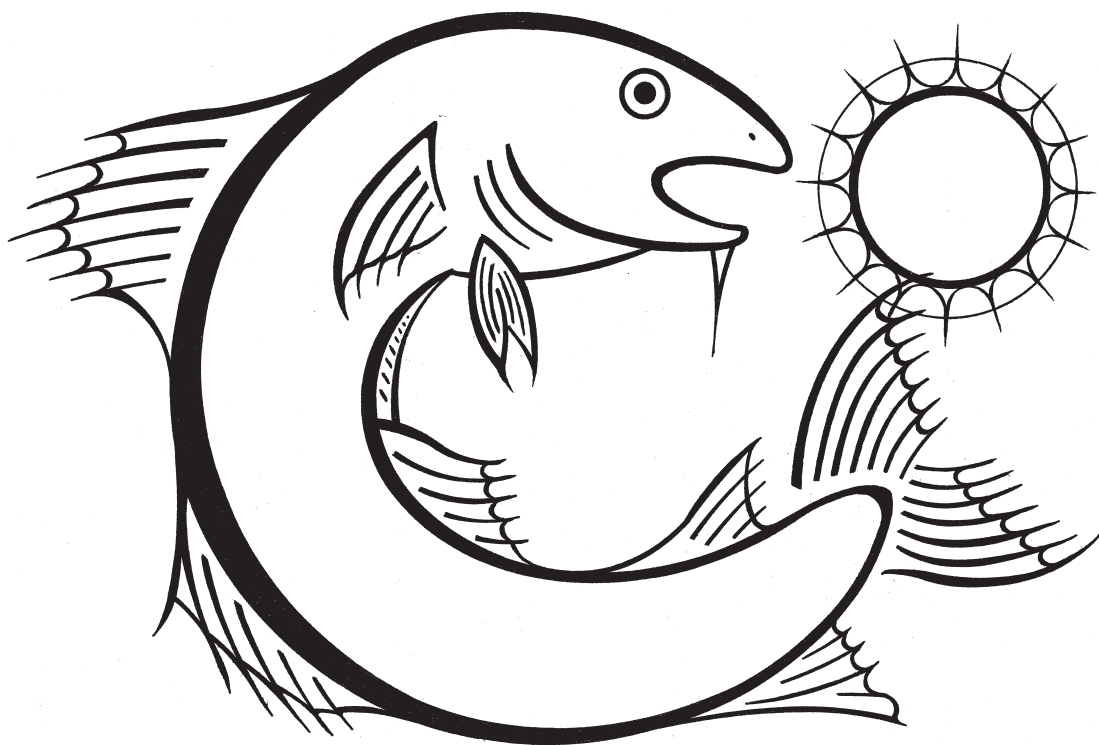


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*The Water  
Was Our Highway*



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# *The Water Was Our Highway*



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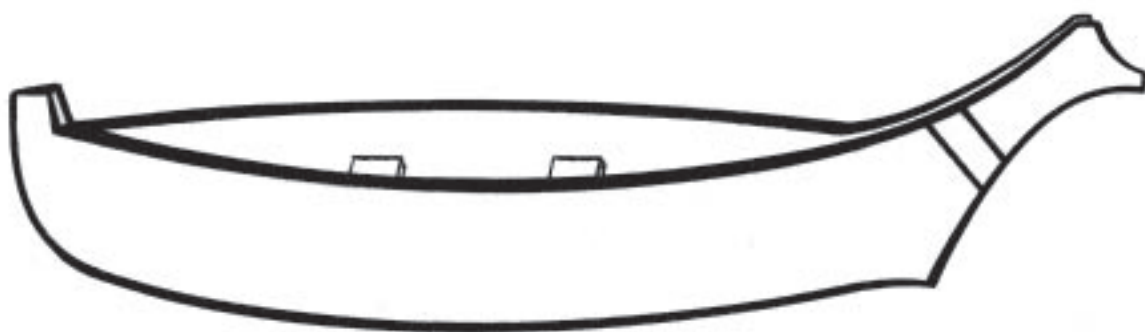
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## *The Water Was Our Highway*

Our ancestors travelled by canoe year round to harvest food from the lands and the waters. They went by the tides and knew the right time to travel for each task. They watched the moon which affected the tides on our river and the ocean waters; they watched the skies and the winds for clues for predicting the weather. The weather, the skies, the tides, the canoes and their instruments all had words in our language that described our way of life.





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## ćapac *canoe*

The water was our highway. When the ancestors travelled it was by canoe on our waterways. They travelled to hunt and gather, to visit relatives or just for pleasure. Every family had a canoe, and everyone could paddle. Children were taught to paddle at a very young age. There were different sizes and styles of canoes for different uses.

Ocean going canoes had the wolf's head on the front to break the water and keep it out of the canoe. The wolfs head was also used as a point of reference like the needle on a compass because there were landmarks to go by. The wolfs head would be lined up with a mountain peak or a large rock on the shore. Lake and river canoes didn't have the wolfs head.

ćapac	canoe
ćayaapac	canoes, plural
ćiicsac	16 foot canoe for trolling
yašmaqsac	18 foot canoe for sealing and seafood gathering
pin'waał	36 foot canoe for whaling
siłsac	40-60 foot canoe for transporting. also used as a war canoe
qwaquułim	the wolfs head section of a canoe. it is made separately and added on.
taaᑭim	seats in a canoe
łušinqii	the boards that fit across and were lashed between two canoes. this was done for transport so lots of cargo could be carried.

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kaayaaqsim	'little trolling pole'. a short branch about 15 inches long where a fishing line was attached when trolling. the stick would move back and forth when a fish was on the line.
ḥayim	canoe bailer
ṭaayuusim	anchor. usually made from a rock.

### čapac *and whaling*

iiḥtup	whale
maaʔak	grey whale
kakaawin	orca
maamaafukšsac	whaling

šintqiiʔiḥ	the family stayed home when the men were out whaling. everyone in the household had to be still until a whale had been harpooned.
šuthiḥ	keeping still in the home, especially the children.
šintmis	ashes. you knew the family had been still in the house because they had ashes in their hair.
čaxýak	spears and harpoons
miḥsyi	shaft of a spear, long ones to reach with
sipwín	when the whaling spear is not being used, it rest between the ears on the wolfs head.



---

## siikaa *sailing*

Sails were used for sailing the canoes. The first sails were made of woven cedar, but later on any kind of material was used. In the afternoon the wind would shift and blow up the canal to our valley, and that would be the time to sail up the canal from náhmint or other places down the canal.

siikaa	sailing
hiicapim	sail, the sail itself.
λaqsim	mast for the sail
siiksac	sail boat



## ʔuxwaap *paddle*

Paddles had different shapes and sizes and were made from vine maple or yew wood. Transport paddles had a wide blade to move lots of water, whaling paddles were narrow so they would be quiet in the water, and war paddles had a pointy end to double as a weapon.

ʔuxwaap	paddles, plural
λiiḥak	paddling with a paddle, or travelling
niλýak	oars
λaawaqsim	oar locks

hupaqsim	where the oar lock sits. a yew wood piece was added to the canoe with a hole drilled in it for the oar lock to sit in. yew wood is very hard and won't wear out.
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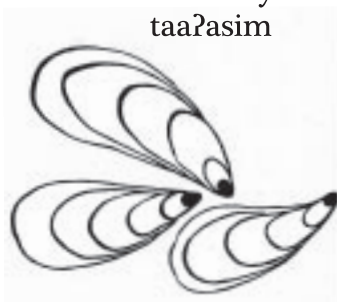
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There was no difference to rowing facing forwards or rowing facing backwards, how you rowed was a matter of personal preference.

čaaq čaaqa     rowing forwards  
ñiiłñiił̃a     rowing backwards

Poling a was another method used to move a canoe through the water. Poling could move a canoe through very swift and very shallow water when necessary. The pole could also serve as a long double ended paddle in deeper waters.

taač̣ak                     pole  
taał̃ taayaʼak           pole for poling upriver  
taał̃ taaya                poling a canoe upriver  
taaʔasim                 multi use pole, household uses



ł̃iiḥakweʔin *when they were going to travel by canoe*

ħaapuxpanač            pleasure trip, when you want to get out  
                                  of the house  
ʔuuqpanač                pleasure outing, sight seeing  
saač̣aaʔak                stuck somewhere  
kanis                        rest area, camping area  
hilitaḥ                    I was there  
hinasitaḥ                I reached there  
wikasił̃aḥ                I didn't reach there  
hiistmaanuʔał̃itaḥ     I only reached that far

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## *Tides*

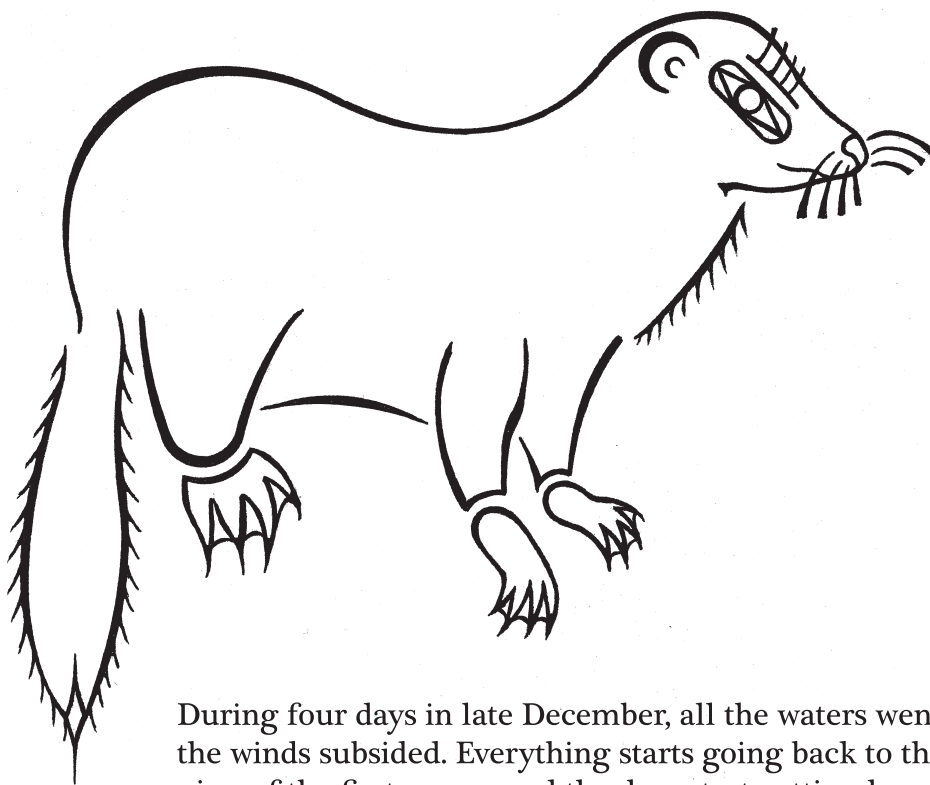
The tides were very important in timing travel by water. You would never leave during the highest tide knowing it would be going down on the way back, and the tide would be running against you.

ḥaay̐i	low tide
mułaa	tide going up
ḥaay̐awił	tide going down
ʔapḥtiis	tide half way up or half way down
łuhłuhš	tide goes way up and way down
muułuk	high tide
muułukwaq	highest tide at the full moon
ćaałćaač	when the tide is high during the winter months, it stays higher longer. the highest tides were in december during the full moon.
haay̐is	lowest tide at the new moon, four day low tide. fishermen didn't go out during this time.
ćaayuqł	the tide is so strong it makes the water rough, rip tide
nanaxačist	a tide surge because of the ocean. the tide gets so high that it touches the branches of trees and washes the branches down the river. also refers to the ocean.

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## ċaastimc *mink*

ċaastimcmit son of mink. the mink owns the low tide.  
you have to ask mink for permission to  
dig for clams.



During four days in late December, all the waters went flat as the winds subsided. Everything starts going back to the beginning of the first season and the days start getting longer. the fishermen didn't go out because the fish wouldn't bite. there was no hunting during this time either.

teſiiλ or tiſiqwatu 'indian new years'  
tiſiqwatu means the sun is not moving, it is 'stuck'

We also called this time tiſas which means 'sun sitting down.'

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## *Related Words*

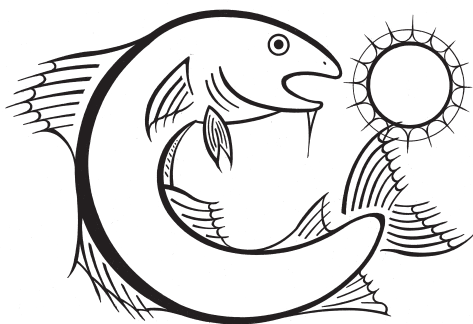
tupał	ocean
ćaʔak	river
ćaćaak	rivers, many rivers, plural
ʕućaas	pool or pond
ʕuʕučas	pools or ponds, plural
cupšiλma or cupakkaλma	the water is really swift
ħuuħsiλ	flooding
ʕematqa	whirling water
wiiqačist	starting to get rough on the ocean
wiiqsiičist	it's rough on the ocean, big waves
ʔeʔiiħmaqak	big ground swells.
ćaʔuła	big sea
ħimqħimqa	the boat is dodging the waves
pišačist	'confused ocean' choppy water, waves moving in every direction and there is no wind.

---

## ʔaathiyuʔi hupal *moons*

The lunar cycle controls the tides. The highest high tides and the lowest low tides were always at the full moon.

ʔaathiyuʔi hupal	moon
ći'taa	no moon 'pitch black'
ćušuk hupał	new moon, crescent
ʔaapḥtukwiʔaλma	half moon
qaatẉatapuuʔaλma	half moon
miiliṃỵawiiʔaλma	waxing moon 'it is getting full'
cumaanuʔaλma	full moon 'its full now'
miilimł	full moon 'totally round, even'
kwałkwałšiʔaλma	waning moon 'part missing'
hiitatućeeʔaλma	waning moon
kwaalatu	waning moon 'chipping off'
ʔatḥiiyiic hupał	night time moon



tuškayilim  
eclipse of the moon. cod fish ate the  
moon causing the eclipse



ṭaṭuus      stars

Our ancestors looked up to the stars to help navigate at night  
and to predict the weather.

ṭaṭuus                      stars

ʔiiḥ ḱiiyikum            the big dipper

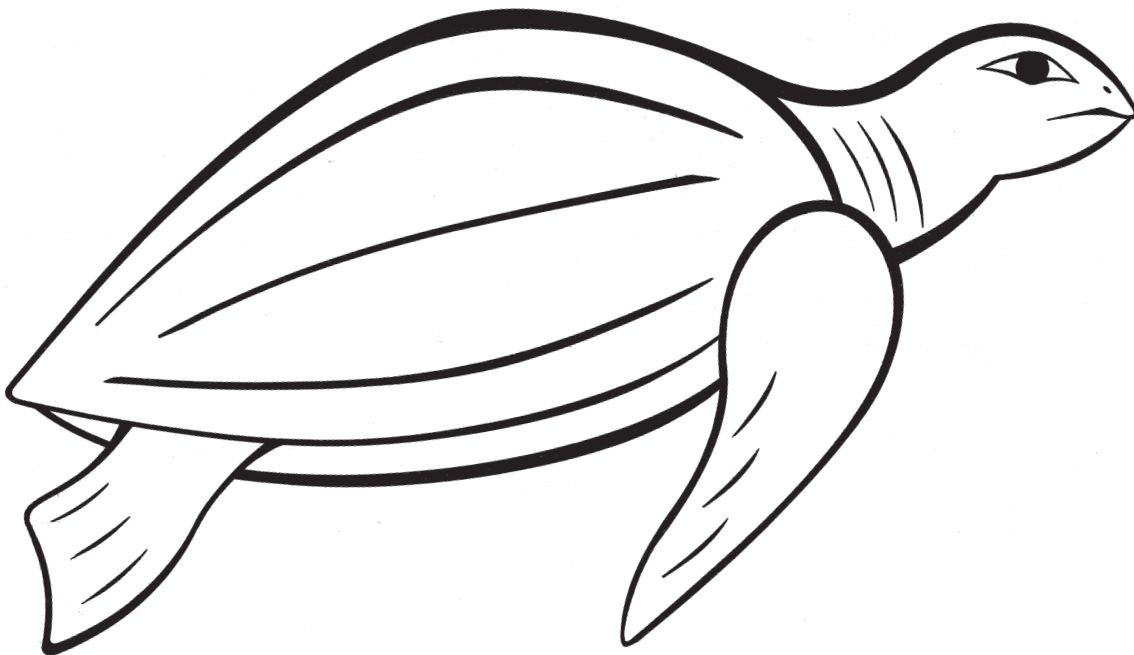
ʔanaḥʔis ḱiiyikum      the little dipper

huuqwapi ḱiyukum      upside down dipper.means the rain is  
coming.

šuxʂaaʔatuma            falling stars

ḥuucinim                  a constellation shaped like the front of a  
canoe. was used for navigation.

ṭaṭusayiiḥ                when you can see all the stars on a clear  
night it means the weather will be good.



ńaasiic hupał      *sun*

You have to watch the skies very carefully in the morning to predict what will happen with the weather that day.

ńaas	the day
ńaasiic hupał	the sun
huupkwistʔa	sunrise
ńaasšił <i>or</i> neeʔiłsił	day break
kuʔał	morning
ʔapwín ńaac	noon
huupʔatu	sun down
tuupšił	evening



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ʔaatḥšił	starting to get dark
tutuṛneeʔałma	darkness is coming
qiićukwiiʔałma	its getting late at night
wiiʃayimč	sunrise when the sky is red
kaačapi	red clouds in the morning for short period of time. this was a sign that brought the storms.
qiiyapi	red clouds in the morning for a long period of time. this sign brought the good weather
łiihiisʔatu	this is when the skies get really red at sunset. This sign brings the good weather along.
huułapi	a mirage caused by the heat of the sun
ńańaastuu	northern lights. the sun is bouncing off the ice at the north pole.
hupał	the sun/the moon/the month
hupałat	calendar. modern word
łaqquiiʔałma liwaḥmis nućiiʔi	a stationary cloud hanging around the top of mountain all day; it is going to be stormy.

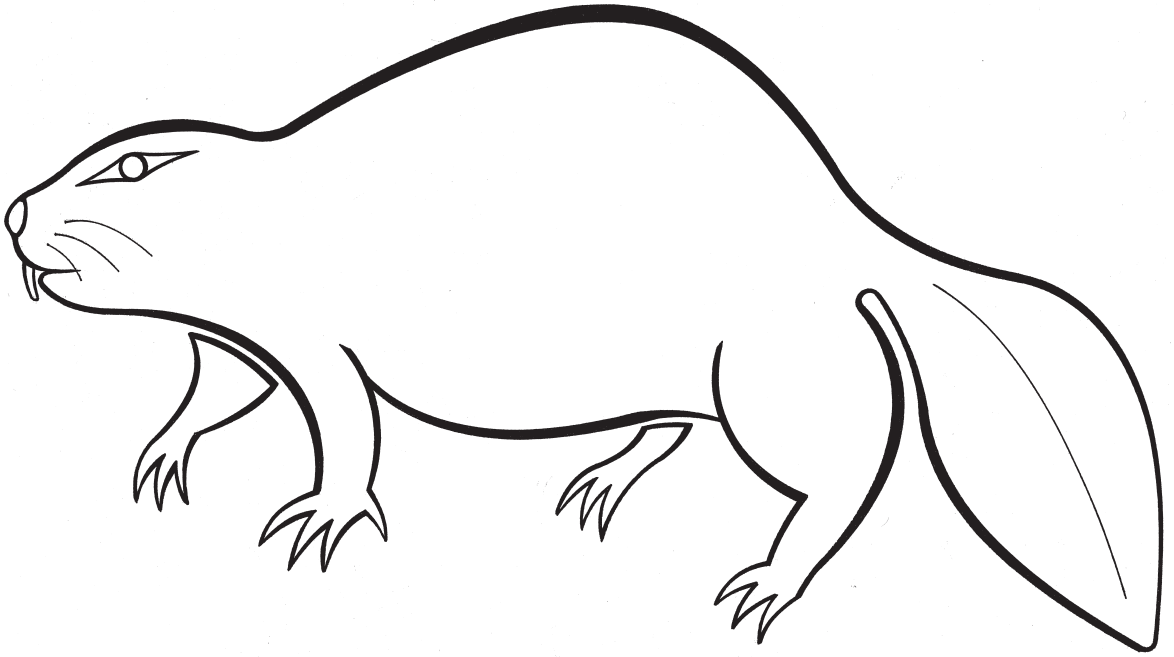
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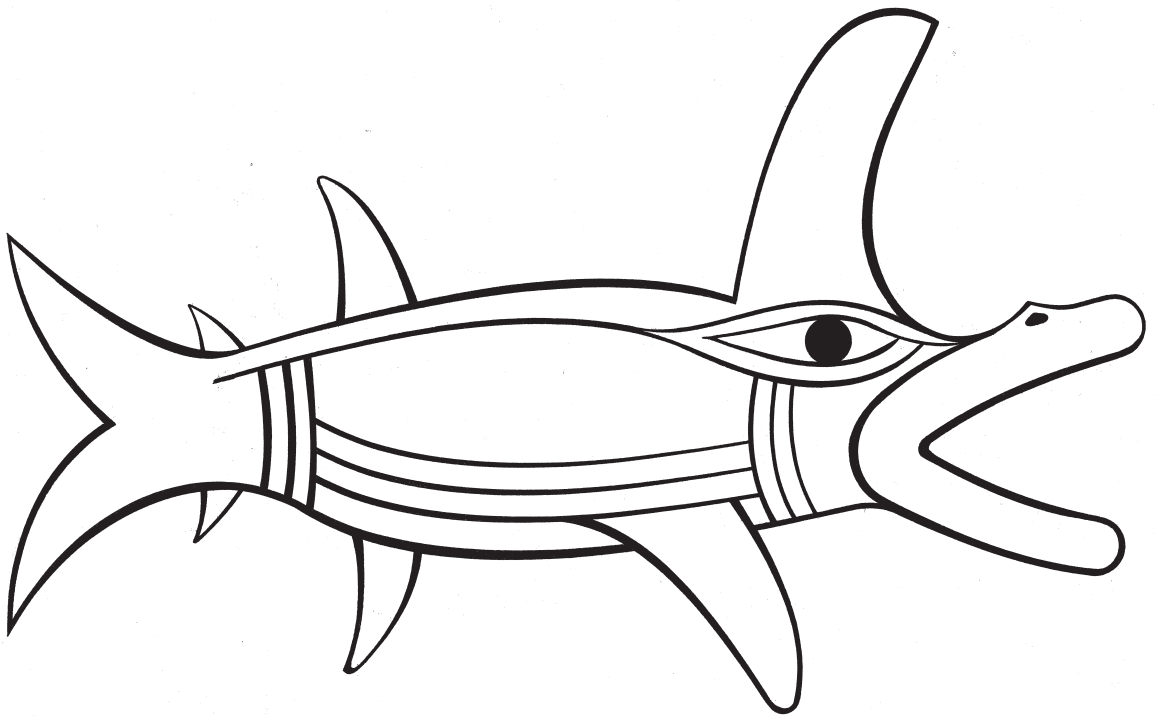
## *Winds*

We watch what the winds are doing to predict what the weather will be like. The fishermen watch the waves and the white caps hitting the rocks in the ocean. If the wave went straight up when it hit the rock there would be no westerly wind and no weather change. If the wave went over the rock, the westerly wind was coming.

hačhiił	west wind. when the west wind was blowing, they never went out on the ocean.
taqsiiʔił	south wind. coming from the ocean towards the mountains.
yuuhtaak or yuhtaas	north wind. blowing from the mountains towards the sea.
yukstiis	east wind
tućii	south east wind
yuučistuuʔał	the wind is just starting on the water
qatpał yumis	the westerly and south easterly would switch back and forth each day in the winter time, they were 'fighting'. this meant it was going to be rough on the ocean for a while.
χuumapi	warm winds. indicates it will be south east winds.



yuu?ati	the wind is blowing down the canal
yukstiis?aλma	the wind is coming from down the canal
ʒemitqa yumis	whirl wind
tupaλapuuf	when the wind picks up the salt water
kiiçapi	'scotch mist' light rain and mist
wiiqsii	stormy



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## *Preparing Fish*

ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ	half smoked salmon. also means having it as soon as it came in.
ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ	fully smoked, salmon jerky
ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ	knife for cutting fish for smoking. this is where the word ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ comes from
ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ	old fish, last of the run. this fish is better for smoking because it is less fatty and lasts longer stored.
ᐱᐱᐱᐱ	barbequed
ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ	boiled fried
ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ	baked fish. the fish is baked in the sand, many types of food could be baked in the sand.
ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ	cured salmon eggs. the eggs are cured seven to ten days in cod gut bags. cheese cloth or five pound sugar bags can also be used but must be washed over and over first. this was usually prepared in the fall, but the first run of fish was not used, so they waited. dog salmon was used, but not coho as it is too rich.
ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ	dried fish eggs

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łuušsaqsacus racks for drying fish in the sun. halibut  
and cod were sun dried as well as herring  
eggs. branches of herring eggs were broken  
into smaller pieces so that short strips could  
be hung on the racks to dry.

saamin salmon

meŋaat sockeye

łałimsaqł ocean sockeye

saćup big springs. called 'smileys' because you smile  
when you catch one. also called tyee.

ćuŋit coho

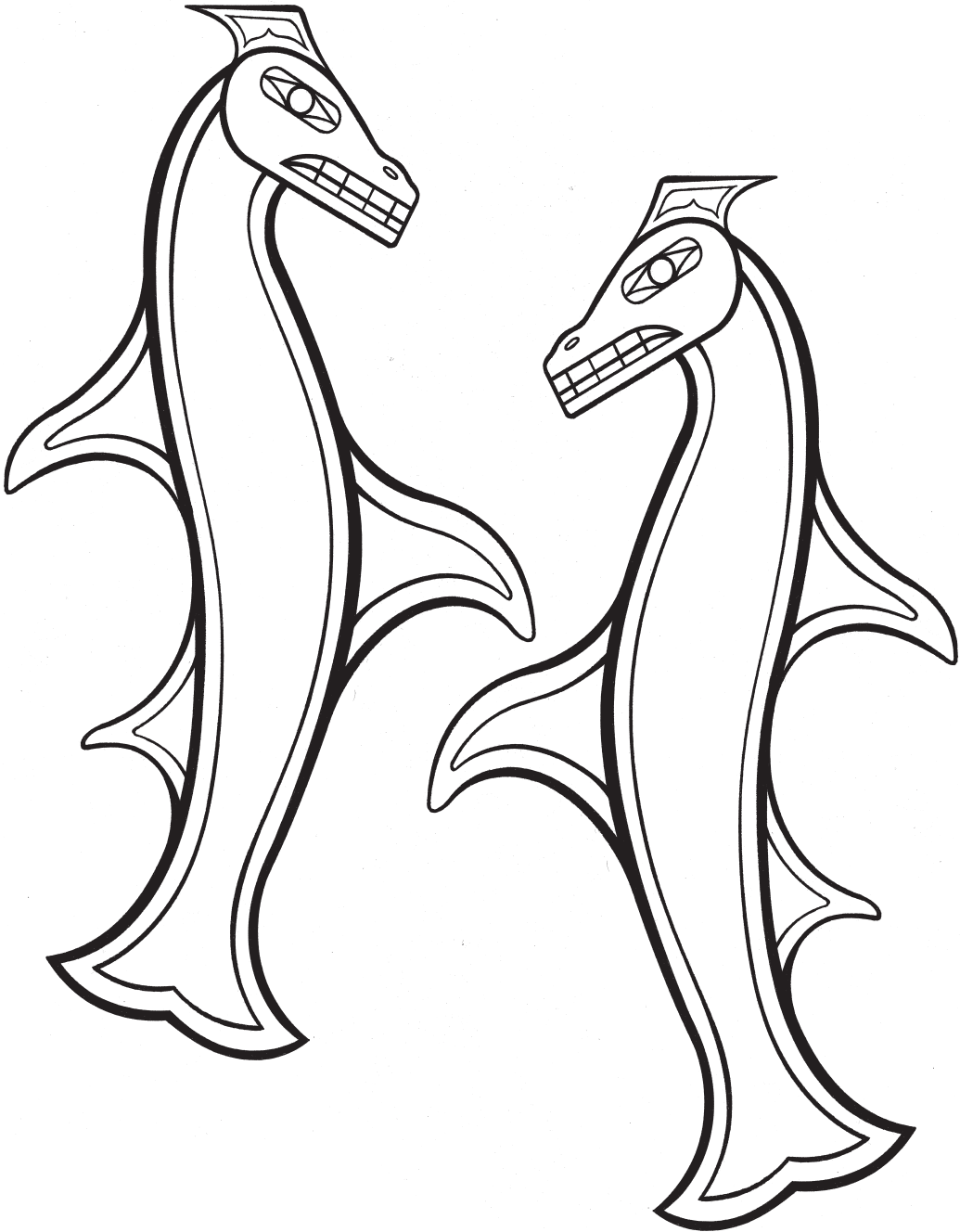
hinkuuʔas chum, also called dog salmon.

suuḥa winter springs

ćaapi pinks, also called humpbacks

qiwaḥ steel head

ťaatŋin trout



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łecko, łecko!

NEDC from all Hupačasath including future generations.

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