By 1900, when this photograph was taken, whale hunting had become less important economically to the Makah because commercial whaling fleets had depleted the whale population. The cultural significance of the whaler endured, however, and great prestige still surrounded successful hunters. The float inside the canoe is made from inflated sealskin and was attached to the harpoon line when it was thrust at the whale.

Negative Number: MOHAI 88.33.36

Old Makah whale hunter with canoe and floats at Neah Bay, 1900

The Makah people of Washington’s Olympic Peninsula hunted whales and other sea mammals from large seagoing canoes. The hunters harpooned the animals and kept them from sinking by attaching floats made from sealskin filled with air. This photo, taken in 1900, shows a row of Makah canoes, probably at Neah Bay. The canoe in the foreground is filled with sealskin floats.

Negative Number: MOHAI 88.33.23

Whaling canoe at Neah Bay, 1900
Columbia River area
Indians fish with spears from platforms at The Dalles, Oregon, ca. 1910. Negative Number: NA746

A man stands on a log by a river holding a very large salmon in one hand and a spear in the other. He wears a floppy brimmed hat and overalls. **Negative Number:** L94-8.2

Colville fisherman, Kettle Falls, Washington, ca. 1930s
Colville fishermen catch salmon at Kettle Falls, Washington, 1939

Two salmon are being pulled across the river at Kettle Falls.
Negative Number: L95-62.5

Men standing on rocks beside water fish at Kettle Falls.
Negative Number: L97-12.13

Colville men fishing from rocks, Kettle Falls, Washington
Man in canoe (blanket around knees) hauling an eel out of the river with a net. *Negative Number: NA1964*

*Eel fishing on the Snake River, Washington, ca. 1902*

In the summer of 1943, the Vashon Island Packing Company hired 80 First Nations people from British Columbia to weed and harvest strawberries, loganberries, and currants. The Indian workers replaced Filipino workers who were now growing vegetables and working in World War II industries. The Canadian farmworkers earned 50 to 60 cents an hour, reportedly two to three times what they might have made at home. Those who stayed the whole summer had their transportation to and from Canada paid for as well. This June 1943 photo shows some of the Indian workers in a Vashon Island strawberry field. *Negative Number: PI-23856*
Makahs cut up whale on beach at Neah Bay, Washington, 1910

Makah men flense (cut) blubber off a beached whale, while others gather around to watch. Negative Number: NA721

Makah men in canoe get ready to harpoon a whale off the coast of Washington, ca. 1930

Makahs in canoe get ready to harpoon a whale off the coast of Washington, ca. 1930
Five fisherman wearing hats and western style clothing stand on fish traps in a river, possibly the Puyallup.
Negative Number: NA4183

*Puget Sound area men fishing from wooden platform, Washington, ca. 1890-1895.*

Man holding spear stands on rocks in the river above a fish trap.
Negative Number: NA712

*Wenatchi man fishing at trap, Tumwater canyon, Wenatchee River, Washington, ca. 1907*
Chehalis woman with basket weaving items, Grays Harbor, Washington, ca. 1906.

Older woman wearing scarf and dress sits outside near buckets, cans and boards. Negative Number: NA1542

Makah woman with gathering basket, Washington, 1910

Makah woman photographed on beach, wearing head scarf, pinned blanket and carrying basket on back. Negative Number: NA584