

Table of Contents

List of Figures	iv
List of Tables	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
Chapter One: Introduction	
The Tseshaht Archaeological Project	1
The Natural Setting	4
Previous Archaeological Research	5
Chapter Two: Tseshaht Oral History and Ethnography	
Tseshaht Creation and Oral Traditions of Ts'ishaa	8
Changes to the Tseshaht Local Group	11
Post-Contact Socio-Political and Territorial Changes	15
Tseshaht Resource Use	24
Chapter Three: The Non-Native Presence	34
Chapter Four: Excavation at Ts'ishaa (DfSi-16) – Main Village Area	
Site Description	37
Extent of Excavation	37
Excavation Methodology	40
Stratigraphy and Chronology	42
Artifacts Recovered	44
Features	66
Faunal Remains	69
Chapter Five: Excavation at Ts'ishaa (DfSi-16) – Back Terrace	
Setting	71
Excavation Extent and Methodology	72
Stratigraphy and Chronology	74
Artifacts Recovered	77
Features	90
Faunal Remains	93
Chapter Six: Excavation at Himayis (DfSi-17)	
Site Description	95
Excavation Extent and Methodology	96
Stratigraphy and Chronology	96
Artifacts Recovered	96
Faunal Remains	100
Chapter Seven: Summary and Discussion	
Cultural Summaries	101
Intrasite Spatial and Component Comparisons	102
Discussion	103
National Parks and Indigenous Histories	106
References Cited	109

Appendix A: Regional Geology, Geoarchaeology, and Artifact Lithologies from Benson Island, Barkley Sound, British Columbia by Michael C. Wilson	115
Appendix B: Analysis of Lithics from the Ts'ishaa Back Terrace by Martin Magne	129
Appendix C: An Analysis of Three Shellfish Assemblages from Ts'ishaa, Site DfSi-16 (204T), Benson Island, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada by Ian D. Sumpter	136
Appendix D: Analysis of the Vertebrate Fauna from Ts'ishaa Village, DfSi-16, Benson Island, B.C. by Gay Frederick and Susan Crockford.	173
Appendix E: Column Sampling and the Archaeology of Small Fish at Ts'ishaa by Iain McKechnie	206

List of Figures

Fig. 1. Barkley Sound, showing the location of Benson Island in the Broken Group and the major archaeological sites mentioned in the text.	2
Fig. 2. Nuu-chah-nulth trainees at Ts'ishaa, 1999.	3
Fig. 3. Tseshaht trainees at Ts'ishaa, 2001.	3
Fig. 4. Aerial view of Barkley Sound, with the islands of the Broken Group in the foreground.	4
Fig. 5. Aerial view of Benson Island, showing the locations of the four <i>ushtakimilh</i>	10
Fig. 6. Map of Benson Island, with known place names, including the locations of the four <i>ushtakimilh</i>	11
Fig. 7. Painted images on the head chief's house that once stood at Ts'ishaa.	12
Fig. 8. Artist's interpretation of inside the head chief's house at Ts'ishaa.	12
Fig. 9. <i>Ts'ishaa7ath</i> , <i>MaktlZii7ath</i> , and <i>Nash'as7ath</i> original territories.	16
Fig. 10. Barkley Sound, showing place names mentioned in the text.	18
Fig. 11. <i>Hach'aa7ath</i> original territory.	19
Fig. 12. <i>Hikwuulh7ath</i> original territory.	21
Fig. 13. Local group territories in Barkley Sound and Alberni Inlet circa 1815, with place names mentioned in the text.	22
Fig. 14. Known sea mammal hunting locations in islands of the Broken Group.	28
Fig. 15. Stone tidal fish trap locations in the Broken Group islands.	30

Fig. 16. Known inshore cod and halibut fishing locations in the Broken Group islands.	31
Fig. 17. Known ethnographic shellfish collecting locations in the Broken Group islands.	33
Fig. 18. The Benson home and hotel, constructed on the site of Himayis.	36
Fig. 19. Contour map of Ts'ishaa (DfSi-16) and Himayis (DfSi-17), Benson Island, showing locations of excavation units.	38
Fig. 20. Excavation in progress at Ts'ishaa, showing the 1999 trench (EA 1) and the shoring equipment installed.	41
Fig. 21. Ian Sumpter (Parks Canada) sorting fine-screened elements from the bulk matrix sample . . .	42
Fig. 22. Stratigraphic profile of the east wall of the 1999 trench (EA 1), showing radiocarbon dates.	43
Fig. 23. Stratigraphic profile of west wall of main 2000 trench (EA 2), showing locations for radiocarbon dates.	43
Fig. 24. Stratigraphic profile for the north wall of unit S 58-60 W 33-35 in EA 3.	44
Fig. 25. Bone points from Ts'ishaa.	47
Fig. 26. Bone bipoints from Ts'ishaa.	48
Fig. 27. Bone awls from Ts'ishaa.	49
Fig. 28. Harpoon valves from Ts'ishaa.	51
Fig. 29. Harpoon valves from Ts'ishaa.	52
Fig. 30. Bone chisels and small bone rectangles from Ts'ishaa.	53
Fig. 31. Decorative bone objects from Ts'ishaa.	53
Fig. 32. Bone and tooth decorative items from Ts'ishaa.	54
Fig. 33. Wedges from Ts'ishaa.	55
Fig. 34. Whalebone artifacts from Ts'ishaa	56
Fig. 35. Chipped stone biface from EA 3, Ts'ishaa.	58
Fig. 36. Miscellaneous stone artifacts from Ts'ishaa.	58
Fig. 37. Jet pendant from upper EA 1 at Ts'ishaa.	59
Fig. 38. Abrasive stones from Ts'ishaa.	62
Fig. 39. Shell artifacts from Ts'ishaa.	63
Fig. 40. Hearth on basal sand, EA 1, Ts'ishaa.	67

Fig. 41. Intact hearth at EA 3, Ts'ishaa.	67
Fig. 42. Feature 57, a large concentration of whalebone.	68
Fig. 43. Excavation around the whalebones of Feature 57.	69
Fig. 44. The back terrace excavation area, from across the gully behind the main village.	71
Fig. 45. Proposed sea level curve for the central west coast of Vancouver Island.	72
Fig. 46. Ts'ishaa back terrace excavation area, looking west.	73
Fig. 47. Ts'ishaa back terrace excavation area, looking east.	73
Fig. 48. Ts'ishaa back terrace stratigraphic profile.	75
Fig. 49. Stratigraphic profile of 2000 Ts'ishaa back terrace unit.	75
Fig. 50. Ts'ishaa back terrace stratigraphic profile (S56-57/W50-52, west wall), showing location of radiocarbon dates.	76
Fig. 51. Large bone points from Ts'ishaa back terrace.	78
Fig. 52. Miscellaneous bone and shell artifacts from Ts'ishaa back terrace.	80
Fig. 53. Whalebone artifacts from Ts'ishaa back terrace.	81
Fig. 54. Large ground slate points from the Ts'ishaa back terrace.	82
Fig. 55. Miscellaneous stone artifacts from the Ts'ishaa back terrace.	83
Fig. 56. Decorated abrasive stone from Ts'ishaa back terrace.	84
Fig. 57. Anvil stone and shaped abrasive stones from Ts'ishaa back terrace.	85
Fig. 58. Large obsidian biface, immediately after discovery.	86
Fig. 59. Large obsidian biface from Ts'ishaa back terrace.	86
Fig. 60. Stone choppers from the Ts'ishaa back terrace.	88
Fig. 61. Miscellaneous chipped stone from Ts'ishaa back terrace.	89
Fig. 62. The rocks of a large burial cairn (Feature 52) at an early stage of exposure.	91
Fig. 63. View into Barkley Sound from front of Himayis.	95
Fig. 64. Stratigraphic profile at Himayis.	97
Fig. 65. Himayis artifacts.	99
Fig. 66. Luke George, Tseshahat and Parks Canada interpreter, discusses Tseshahat history and archaeological research with site visitors.	108

Fig. 67. Tseshaht visitors to Benson Island singing the welcome song on the beach in front of Ts'ishaa.	108
---	-----

List of Tables

Table 1. Barkley Sound climatic data.	5
Table 2. Radiocarbon dates from Ts'ishaa Main Village.	45
Table 3. Artifacts from Ts'ishaa (DfSi-16) – Main Village.	46
Table 4. Abrupt tip bone points – Ts'ishaa Village.	47
Table 5. Gradually tapering bone points – Ts'ishaa Village.	47
Table 6. Complete abrasive stones from Ts'ishaa Village.	61
Table 7. Radiocarbon dates from Ts'ishaa Back Terrace.	77
Table 8. Artifacts from Ts'ishaa (DfSi-16) Back Terrace.	78
Table 9. Artifacts from Himayis (DfSi-17).	98