



FISH PEOPLE AND THE BOY

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North Coast Indians considered their successful taking of fish to be dependent upon the good will of the prey.

Many native traditions held that killed animals were handled according to rules given to them by the animal people themselves.

The Tlingit believed that a boy once made disparaging remarks of a dead fish person, calling it "moldy." The boy was taken into the salmon people as punishment for disrespect.

The boy's parents later caught the fish that held the boy within and released him. Upon his release the boy taught his people how to properly treat the salmon with respect to insure their essential success.

