



The Arctic Institute of North America presents the 2016-17

Arctic Speaker Series

Owning the Ocean: Salmon, Science, and American Empire in the Pacific World, 1890-1960

Who: Ross Coen	Date: January 18, 2017	Time: 4:00 – 5:00 pm	Location: University of Calgary; Science A 106
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From the beginnings of the North Pacific salmon canning industry in the late nineteenth century, Seattle-based packing companies continually expanded their reach into new regions of the open ocean and sought to establish proprietary interests by demarcating what they viewed as virgin maritime space with boundaries that both reflected their commercial interests and disadvantaged or outright excluded indigenous and foreign fishermen. Whether based on natural environmental forms (e.g., continental shelf) or artificial constructs (e.g., the 180th meridian), the boundaries and the processes behind their creation replicated in many ways the history of white settlement in the American West and the triumphalism that

undergirded the enterprise. This presentation focuses on the production and application of scientific knowledge of salmon, knowledge that compartmentalized and commodified the natural environment, and in the process became conjoined with U.S. political prerogatives in the nation's Pacific empire.

Biography: Ross Coen is a PhD candidate in history at the University of Washington in Seattle. His research focuses on the social, political, environmental, and scientific histories of North Pacific salmon fisheries from 1890 to 1960. He is the author of three books, most recently *Fu-Go: The Curious History of Japan's Balloon Bomb Attack on America*, and numerous articles on the history of Alaska, the Arctic, and the North American West.

This event is **free and open to the public**

There will be a reception in the AINA offices (ES-1040) immediately following the presentation

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