

About 13,000 years ago, the first inhabitants of Peru faced a series of environments to adapt and obtain resources. One was the sea. In it they found fish, mollusks and crustaceans that would serve as food.

At the beginning, they had to invent simple technologies such as spearing fish that lived on the shore; later, about 11,000 years ago, they already used nets to catch them, and then hooks generally made of bone and shell. In addition, they used baskets and when there was an abundance, they made stone fences with wooden stakes to catch them and take them out with their hands.

But, without a doubt, one of the great advances in marine technology was the manufacture of vehicles that allowed them to go out to sea. The materials used to make them were adapted to the various environments of the coast. In northern Peru, very well-built rafts were used. There were also lighter boats such as the well-known “caballitos de totora”, reed rafts that were skillfully handled and probably reached some 20 km out to sea. And in the south, small boats made of sea lion skin floats facilitated their travel in the cold southern sea.

It is evident that they also collected mollusks and crustaceans. Generally, they did so by risking extracting them from the rocks with stone chips, in addition to collecting seashells.