



1850-1900s

1854-1855: United States signs treaties with western Washington tribes.

1889: Washington becomes a state.

1900-1950s

1905: *U.S. v. Winans* affirms treaty rights of Yakama Indians.

1931: Billy Frank Jr. born March 9 to Angeline and Willie Frank. Willie Frank was removed from his allotment on Muck Creek by the taking of reservation land to become Ft. Lewis. Billy Frank Jr. grew up on the 6-acre parcel his father purchased known as Frank's Landing on the Nisqually River a few miles from the mouth of the Nisqually River.

1942: *Tulee v. Washington* affirms that the state cannot require off-reservation Indians to purchase fishing licenses.

1945: Billy Frank Jr. arrested at the age of 14 for fishing. He continues to fish and continues to be arrested at least 49 more times.

1952: Frank enlists in the U.S. Marines for two years.

1900-1950s

1960s

1963: *State v. McCoy* reaffirms off-reservation easement for usual and accustomed areas.

1964: Civil Rights Act is passed.

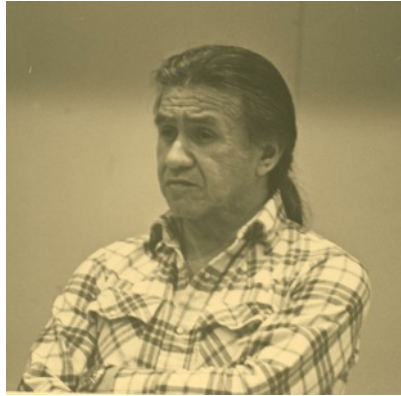
1964: Billy Frank Jr. and Al Bridges are thrown overboard from their canoe when a Washington Department of Wildlife boat rams them at full speed. After making it to shore, they are arrested and their canoe and nets confiscated. Soaking wet, they are transported to Tacoma by boat to jail.

1965: A temporary injunction is issued against Nisqually Indians for off-reservation net fishing.

1968: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated.

1968: *Puyallup v. Washington* (Puyallup I) finds that Washington state can only regulate off-reservation fishing for conservation purposes.'

1969: *Sohappy v. Smith/U.S. v. Oregon* acknowledge the rights of tribes to fish in the Columbia River with minimal regulation by federal or local governments.



1970s

1973: In *Washington State v. Puyallup* (Puyallup II), the U.S. Supreme Court rules that the state cannot use conservation to favor sport over tribal fishermen.

1974: *U.S. v. Washington* (the Boldt Decision) reaffirms treaty-reserved fishing rights per the 1854 and 1855 treaties.

1974: The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission is formed. Billy Frank Jr. served as chairman for nearly 40 years, all but a handful of years of the existence of the organization until his passing.

1975: *U.S. v. Washington* is affirmed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

1976: U.S. Supreme Court declines to hear *U.S. v. Washington*.

1979: U.S. Supreme Court reaffirms *U.S. v. Washington*.

1979: *Washington v. Washington Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Association* is upheld under same principles as *U.S. v. Washington*.



1980s

1985: The Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement is established between *U.S. and Canada*.

1988: The Timber/Fish/Wildlife Program is formed to protect fish and wildlife habitat while supporting the timber industry.

1989: The Nisqually Tribe settles its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) lawsuit against the city of Tacoma, assuring adequate flows for fish from dams on the Nisqually River and paying for annual operation of Nisqually's Clear Creek Hatchery. The oral history from Willie Frank Sr. is pivotal in the case. Frank Sr. passes shortly after giving his testimony in his home at the age of 104.





1990s

1991: Nisqually Tribe's Clear Creek Hatchery opens.

1992: Congress passes the Elwha River Restoration Act, authorizing removal of the fish-blocking Elwha and Glines Canyon dams.

1992: Billy Frank Jr. awarded the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Award that honors people "whose commitment to service influences and inspires others."

1994: Shellfish Case – Judge Rafeedie rules that the tribes have treaty rights to harvest shellfish on public and private tidelands.

1994: The gray whale is removed from the federal Endangered Species Act.

1999: The Makah Tribe legally harvests a single gray whale under a federally approved plan.

1999: The Pacific Salmon Treaty Agreement is renewed.

1999: Puget Sound chinook, Hood Canal/Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum and Lake Ozette chinook are listed as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act.

2000s

2001: Culvert Case – Western Washington treaty tribes challenge culverts under state roads that affect salmon runs passing through the tribes' usual and accustomed fishing areas, as defined in *U.S. v. Washington*.

2004: Dec. 10 – Nisqually Chief Leschi exonerated of murder charges 146 years later. Billy Frank Jr. one of 11 witnesses who testify on Leschi's behalf.

2007: The Shellfish Settlement is signed by Puget Sound commercial shellfish growers and 17 treaty tribes in western Washington. The agreement addresses treaty shellfish harvest rights, preserves the health of the shellfish industry and provides greater shellfish harvest opportunities for everyone in the state.

2007: Puget Sound steelhead is listed as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act.

2007: In the Culvert Case summary judgment, Judge Ricardo Martinez rules that Washington state must refrain from building or operating culverts under state-maintained roads that hinder fish passage.



2009: The Skokomish Tribe and city of Tacoma reach an agreement regarding the city's fish-blocking hydroelectric dams on the North Fork Skokomish River.

2010: Under the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, tribes call on the federal government to protect treaty rights and lead a better coordinated salmon recovery effort.

2011: Nearly 20 years after passing the Elwha River Restoration Act, deconstruction begins of the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams.

2011: Salmon Defense establishes the Billy Frank Jr. Endowment for his 80th birthday. The endowment is "to honor and create permanence and action to the vision and work of Billy Frank Jr., such as scholarships, litigation, educational programs and an annual environmental award.

2013: In the Culvert Case remedy ruling, the federal court gives Washington state 17 years to fix failing culverts. The state appeals.

February 12, 2014: 40th Anniversary of the Boldt Decision

2014: Billy Frank Jr. awarded the American Indian Society Lifelong Achievement Award.

May 5, 2014: Billy Frank Jr. passes. Thousands attend a celebration of his life.

Nov. 2016: President Barack Obama posthumously awards Billy Frank Jr. the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor for his lifelong commitment and work for tribes, salmon and the citizens of Washington state.

May 2016: Following a number of visits by Frank over the years, 33 indigenous Yupik villages of southeastern Alaska come together to create the Kuskokwim River Inter-tribal Fish Commission (KRITFC) and now work as co-managers with state and federal fisheries managers. "The legacy of Billy Frank is stronger now than ever before, and will get stronger," said Mike Williams, first chairman of KRITFC.