

Billy Frank, Jr. has spent much of his life advocating for human rights for all, particularly the Indian People of western Washington. A Nisqually Tribal member, Frank grew up fishing for salmon and steelhead on the Nisqually River, and he was on the front line when the battle over treaty-guaranteed Indian fishing rights erupted in the 1960s and '70s. His perseverance landed him in jail more than 40 times, but they also help guarantee Indian fishing rights when the Boldt Decision was made in the late 1970s. Cooperation -- not confrontation -- is what Frank, 80, advocates now. As



Chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Frank has worked to achieve a number of key agreements between the tribes and various local, state and federal officials that further strengthen treaty-guaranteed fishing rights and environmental protection laws. His involvement in areas like the unique Timber-Fish-Wildlife Agreements, the Chelan Agreement (a water resources planning document), and the Centennial Accord, have placed Frank in a powerful leadership role for Indian and non-Indian alike. It's a leadership role that's been recognized from Olympia to Washington, D.C.

Summary of Experience

1977, 1981-Present: Chairman, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia, Washington. He serves as a key representative to the 20 treaty tribes of western Washington on fisheries concerns. He is responsible for dealing with local, national and international fisheries organizations.

1977-Present: Commissioner, Medicine Creek Treaty Area, NWIFC. He serves as a representative for the Nisqually, Puyallup and Squaxin Island tribes of South Puget Sound.

1979-Present: Nisqually Tribal Fish Commissioner.

1975-1988: Fisheries Manager, Nisqually Indian Tribe. He was responsible for development review and implementation of fisheries management efforts on the Nisqually River system, including enhancement and habitat-protection activities.

Recognitions

2011 Special Recognition Award, National Congress of American Indians

2011 Medal Recipient, Seattle Aquarium, "Inspiring conservation of our marine environment"

2011 2011 Community Champion Award, Futurewise, Seattle WA

2010 Drum Award, Environment & Culture, The Five Civilized Nations (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee & Seminole Nations)

2010 Conservation Hero Award, The Nature Conservancy

2005 Leadership & Personal Stewardship, Nisqually River Watershed, White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation

2004 American Indian Visionary Award, Indian Country Today

1997 Outstanding Volunteer Service, Wolf Haven International

1992 Albert Schweitzer prize for Humanitarianism

1990 Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award for Humanitarian Achievement

1987 Washington State Environmental Excellence Award for State Ecological Commission, Received on Behalf of Participating Tribes

1989 American Indian Distinguished Service Award

1985 Common Cause Award, National Recognition for efforts in human rights