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Messages from Frank's Landing: A Story of Salmon, Treaties, and the Indian Way

Charles F. Wilkinson
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In *Messages from Frank’s Landing*, Charles Wilkinson explores the broad historical, legal, and social context of Indian fishing rights in the Pacific Northwest, providing a dramatic account of the people and issues involved. Tribal fisherman in the Pacific Northwest have long relied on access to salmon populations, but by the 1960s, they were frequently in conflict with state game wardens over. Frank’s Landing, six acres along the Nisqually River owned by Nisqually tribal leader Billy Frank, Jr. and his 95-year-old father, became a focal point in the fight for tribal treaty rights in the Northwest. The “Fish Wars” culminated in a major federal ruling in 1974, which reaffirmed the treaty rights of the tribal fishermen and allocating them 50% of the harvestable steelhead and salmon.

Wilkinson focuses on Billy Frank’s life and activism as he chronicles the history of tribal fishing rights in the Pacific Northwest, and draws on decades of experience as a lawyer working with Indian people to clarify the complex legal issues and provide insight into a turbulent period in the political and environmental history of the Northwest.
Messages from Frank's Landing

A STORY OF SALMON, TREATIES, AND THE INDIAN WAY

CHARLES WILKINSON
MESSAGES FROM FRANK'S LANDING
Also by Charles Wilkinson

*American Indians, Time and the Law: Native Societies in a Modern Constitutional Democracy*

*The American West: A Narrative Bibliography and a Study in Regionalism*

*The Eagle Bird: Mapping a New West*

*Croossing the Next Meridian: Land, Water, and the Future of the West*

*Fire on the Plateau: Conflict and Endurance in the American Southwest*
Dedicated to

Professor RALPH W. JOHNSON

who heard the messages from Frank's Landing
and took them into his mind and heart
The evergreen stand on Medicine Creek in 1854 has left a lone witness to history. The resilient Treaty Tree maintains its watch on the western edge of the Nisqually River delta.