

Billy Frank Jr. Pacific Salmon Summit

Call to Action

2018

*“As the salmon disappear, so do our tribal cultures and treaty rights.
We are at a crossroads, and we are running out of time.”
- Billy Frank Jr. (1931-2014)*

Principle Tenet

Billy Frank spent a lifetime championing Indian treaty fishing rights, the recovery of salmon and the need to protect our environment which supports salmon and all the natural world that the people who live in this region value. We are here today to remember and honor his vision to “tell your story” and “tell the truth” as we chart a path to “stay the course” towards successfully recovering salmon in this region. We need to call on the strength of his leadership, which remains with us forever, to make it happen.

We are at a critical juncture. Our collapsing fisheries are mirroring a collapsing ecosystem. The plight of the Orca is yet another reminder of this truth. Even with all we have all done - we are still not recovering salmon. There is a sense of urgency that we are running out of time. A common agenda based on the truth of what is necessary will allow us to engage, support and hold accountable our individual capacities to speak those truths and advance actions that are necessary for effective change. The Pacific Northwest can continue to set the bar for innovation, high quality of life, respect for the ecology that sustains us, and a willingness to lead with creative and progressive ideals. We have, and will continue to, face the challenges before us and protect our lifeways and homelands.

General Agreements



Work Better Together to do More – Progressive Leadership

Salmon recovery processes have been limited to a consensus based approach which has made little measurable progress towards recovery of salmon populations. We must do more. We must demonstrate leadership and commitment to meet challenging and difficult tasks head-on, instead of looking for the quickest and most convenient work-around. We will honor each other's roles and create a common lens to better focus our collective capacities on what we know is necessary, even the difficult issues that we struggle to agree upon. As experts in the history, science, and politics of salmon recovery we must do that which is most difficult in order to accomplish what we know is necessary to protect and restore our region's salmon. Salmon recovery means abundant, productive, and harvestable populations that feed all the people, animals, and plants of our great state.

Value Hatcheries as Part of Recovery

Hatcheries are and will be important to recovery as long as lost and damaged habitat impair natural production. Hatcheries have an important role to play in recovery both in the short and long-term.

Support Tribes and Tribal Treaty Rights

We must continue to recognize the leadership and capacity of Tribal Nations. Supporting tribes means a continued acknowledgment of tribal sovereignty, their treaty-reserved rights, and the health and well-being of tribal communities. Tribes must continue to be recognized as integral leaders and managers of the resource. Tribes must continue to be engaged and treaty rights must be protected as both are vital assets to the strength of our region and to our salmon recovery efforts.

Bring Innovation into Recovery

Salmon recovery is about rebuilding, sustaining and protecting functioning ecosystems; ecosystems that we are just as much a part of. What is good for salmon will ultimately benefit us as healthy, vibrant human beings. Salmon recovery and habitat restoration and protection should be pursued as an investment in the long-term wealth and security it brings to the region rather than being viewed as a short-term economic liability. Looking for and requiring the advancement of new ideas and technologies to protect and repair the environment can drive robust economic growth and sustainable, healthy communities based on green infrastructure and clean water, versus a pollution based economy. Investing in innovative ways to protect the environment and our communities has mutual benefits beyond just salmon recovery. This same work will also help to protect life and property in the face of a changing climate.

Commit to Joint Communication Campaign “Telling the Truth Together”

A clear, consistent and targeted message is necessary to create and compel a citizenry that is proud of living in a place that values robust fisheries resources, clean water, healthy environment, and healthy people. Communication and public education must occur to create the political will to engage the changes necessary to protect and restore critical habitats and the long-term sustainability of our region’s resources and economies.

Common Objectives – We Know What Salmon Need:

Restore physical processes to accomplish recovery

1. Create Salmon Corridors

Protect, restore, and enhance hydrological and geomorphic connectivity between rivers and their floodplains and deltas throughout the region. Work to set back infrastructure across the anadromous zone will allow rivers to move and dissipate flood energy, which creates and sustains instream and riparian habitats that salmon populations require.

- Create consistency in protecting and restoring riparian conditions on each side of the stream at least 1 Site Potential Tree Height (SPTH) wide along all portions of stream networks in western Washington, regardless of jurisdiction and land-use.
- Stop subsidizing floodplain development - privatize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

2. Restore Habitat Connectivity

Repair, replace or remove structures such as dams, tidegates, fishways, levees and culverts to allow for fish passage and use at all life stages and flows.

3. Functioning and Connected Marine Shorelines

Restore and maintain ecological connectivity and geomorphic function throughout all zones of the nearshore from 200 feet on the landward side to 100 feet below mean lower low water.

4. Cool, Clean Water & Ample Water Availability

Accomplish ecosystem based flows of clean, cool water to support productive salmon runs and harvestable shellfish beds. Embrace toxics and nutrient reduction strategies targeting input from wastewater treatment plants and stormwater while driving source control by sustaining and implementing protective water quality standards.

5. Productive Ocean Conditions

Maintain and improve ocean conditions necessary to support salmon resources at all life stages. Monitor, evaluate, and respond to changing ocean conditions through broad-based climate response and locally implemented management plans.

6. Increase Hatchery Production

Until watersheds, the Salish Sea estuary, and the ocean are able to maintain self-sustaining salmon populations in abundance to meet the needs of tribal treaty rights, hatchery production will continue to play a critical role in the management of our resources. Hatcheries will remain an integral and indispensable component of salmon recovery and salmon ecosystems that are important to all citizens in our region.

Next Step to Move Forward:

Challenge the status quo and the 'business as usual' mentality by bringing together leaders and innovators across all sectors: policy, science, and political who are willing to think outside the box. We need to meet these difficult yet necessary tasks head-on and support the region to move beyond the confines of current processes and agency or constituent positions. The success of this work depends on all of us.



Convene a series of work sessions

These work sessions need to be made up of a subset of us. They need to be guided by the belief that we can create change and facilitated to accomplish an exploration of what is, and what is

not, working. They should be tasked with formulating possible paths to better coordinate and implement forces in moving forward and generate new approaches to longstanding problems.

The group will:

- Be facilitated and supported to develop and document change-making ideas.
- Meet ~ 6 times over 12 months.
- Investigate conflicts and failings in accomplishing recovery objectives.
- Have access to all of us in this room and can call any of us at any time for information or support.
- Honor roles and engage full capacity by acknowledging breadth of capacities and roles.
- Require accountability for proposed work.
- Develop a set of proposed actions.
- Be supported by Salmon Defense.

Suggested Participants:

Dave Herrera, Skokomish Tribe

Heather Bartlett, WA State Department of Ecology

Barbara Baker, WA State Fish and Wildlife Commission

Jeff Davis, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Justin Parker, NW Indian Fisheries Commission

Hilary Franz, WA Department of Natural Resources

Jesse Israel, The Nature Conservancy

Derek Sandison, WA Department of Agriculture

JT Wilcox, WA State Legislature