



Confederated Tribes and Bands  
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the  
Treaty of June 9, 1855

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Immediate Release

Date: April 13, 2017

### **Contact:**

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### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SalmonScam: A look back on the Fish Wars**

#### **WHAT:**

This April, we will gather to remember the tribal fishers who risked everything they had to protect treaty fishing rights in the Pacific Northwest. Sohappy attorney, Tom Keefe, returns to the Yakama reservation to offer indispensable insights of the Tradition on Trial. The late David Sohappy Sr., and other fishers were involved in the century long "fish wars" in Washington State over Indian treaty fishing rights. Find out why this case became international news and made David Sohappy, Sr. a lasting symbol of the treaty rights struggle. This movement continues to the present day, from the banks of the Columbia River, Willamette River and beyond. This anniversary is an incredible opportunity to continue advocacy of tribal people and the resources.

#### **WHEN:**

Tuesday, April 25, 2017, the event begins at 4:30 (Student Presentations). 5pm Film and 6pm Lecture by Tom Keefe.

#### **PHOTO OP:**

Photos can be taken of Tom Keefe meeting with tribal members, photo Exhibit of Fishers at Trial, Heritage University student presenting her family connection with the Columbia River and fishing.

#### **WHO:**

Student: Ashley Rae CrossingHorse, Tom Keefe, Sohappy attorney, Fishers including Wilbur Slockish, and Sohappy family. Representatives of the Yakama Nation.

#### **WHERE:**

Heritage University, Patricia Wade Temple Room, 3240 Fort Rd, Toppenish, WA 98948

## MORE INFORMATION:

- **Additional Event:** “River Walk” will take place on Friday, April 28, 2017 at 11am Columbia Hills State Park. Tribal members will walk and view prehistoric features and discuss our continued life on the Columbia River and beyond.
- **Video:** Video Slideshow (2min 48 sec): <https://youtu.be/JXCEII73Ehk>
- **1969 Case:** Sohappy v. Smith/U.S. v. Oregon (1969) in which court ruled in favor of Yakama fishers “a fair and equitable share.”
- **1983 SalmonScam sting operation:** Results in a controversial criminal conviction.
- **1987 SalmonScam Case: “Tradition on Trial” at Yakama Nation:** Trial at the Yakama court began on April 13, 1987. Tribe asserts authority to regulate fishing of tribal members. The Yakama Nation jury acquits Sohappy and SalmonScam defendants.
- **Webpage:** <http://www.yakamafish-nsn.gov/honor/david-sohappy>

## Photos:



Figure 1 David Sohappy Sr., Matt McConville. Back: David Jr., Wilbur Slockish, Jr. and Leroy Yocash walk to court (1987)



Figure 2 Billy Frank, Jr and David Sohappy Sr at Yakama Trial (1987)

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