The Boldt Decision

By “Kwanesum Sagalle Chak-Chak”

Members: Brittany Aldredge, Larry Calvert, Jessica Giordano, Michael Seger

Team Leads: Nicole Santos and Joey Nelson
The Boldt Decision
Itka?
Itka? (What?)
The Boldt Decision....
Duh.
Klaksta?
Judge George Boldt made a decision that affected tribes from all across the Northwest including:

- Duwamish
- Snoqualmie
- Steilacoom
- Nisqually
- Lummi
- Muckleshoot
- Hoh
- Makah
- Puyallup
- Quileute
- Quinault
- Sauk-Suiattle
- Skokomish
- Squaxin Island
- Stillaguamish
- Upper Skagit River
- Yakima Nation
Kah? (Where?)

The Pacific Northwest, Specifically Coastal Tribes.
Kah? (When?)

- On February 12th, 1974 Judge George Boldt came to his decision.
Kanta?
Kanta (Why?)

Things between Native and Non-Native fishermen got heated in the 1950’s and 1960’s due to a lack of fish.

Whites became violent with the Natives.

Game wardens and police did not respect the Natives’ right to harvest fish and arrested them for poaching.
The Statement that Changed the Northwest
Judge Boldt’s Reasoning

• Boldt commented that, “By dictionary definition and as intended and used in the Indian treaties and in this decision, “in common with”, means sharing equally the opportunity to take fish...therefore, non treaty fisherman shall have the opportunity to take up to half or 50% of the harvestable number of fish...and treaty right fisherman shall have the opportunity to take up to the same percentage.”

• The Treaty of Medicine Creek says, “The right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed grounds and stations, is further secured to said Indians in common with all citizens of the territory.”

• Judge Boldt felt the treaties of the past should be honored and that when the natives gave away land to the government they earned these special rights.
The Boldt decision stated:

- Natives have the automatic right to 50% of all salmon harvested and rights to special fishing grounds.
- Non-Native fisherman and commercial fisherman get the remaining half.
- It also states that Natives can only be regulated when off of their reservations.
Kahta?
Kahta (How?)

• Natives would participate what was called a fish in protesting the abuse from police to their given fishing rights.

• Native tribes banded together and sued the state of Washington in 1968 but it was unresolved.

• In 1970 Slade Gorton sued the state for the Natives
How it All Went Down...
Any Questions?