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Billy Frank Jr., leader of NW 'fish wars' in '60s and '70s, dies

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Billy Frank Jr. rallied celebrities like Jane Fonda and Marlon Brando to the tribal cause during the Indian Fish Wars of the '60s and '70s. NORTHWEST INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION

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Billy Frank Jr., a Nisqually Indian and champion of tribal treaty rights for 70 years, has died in his Olympia-area home. He was 83.

Frank served as chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, an outgrowth of the landmark 1974 federal court ruling that affirmed the rights of Western Washington treaty tribes to half of the harvestable salmon.

Associates and close friends of the charismatic environmental leader said Frank had been actively working and attending meetings all last week, and that his death came as a total surprise.

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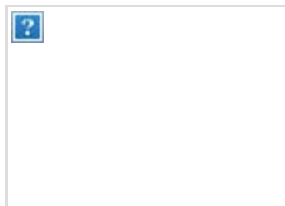
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