

Salmon fleet faces cut of up to 50 per cent

About B.C. 3,500 fishers would be put out of work under a plan that would see Ottawa spend \$80 million to buy out licences.

MIKE CRAWLEY
Vancouver Sun

The B.C. salmon fleet will be told today to slash its size by as much as 50 per cent, a move that will profoundly change one of the province's biggest in-

dustries.

All along the coast, fishers are bracing for the news from federal Fisheries Minister Fred Mifflin.

He will announce the 4,500-boat fleet will be cut by 30 to 50 per cent, that each commercial licence will be valid only in a certain area, and that the federal government will spend \$80 million to buy out licences, a source in the fishing industry said.

The package that is far worse than

fishers hoped for.

In December, a fishing industry group recommended the fleet be reduced by one-third, which would put some 3,500 fishers out of work. They also asked the federal and provincial government for a \$200-million program to retrain displaced fishers and buy out boats and licences.

"The decisions taken have been based on those recommendations," fisheries department official Bill Morrell said

Thursday. But that doesn't mean the federal plan will be a precise copy of the report submitted by the industry, he added.

There's not a lot of money in federal coffers for expensive bail-outs, warned MP Ted McWhinney, parliamentary secretary to Mifflin.

"The money isn't there for major commitments," he said, but he added that he didn't know the financial details of

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RICK LEY: someone's roll, even sympathetic

Fear of playoff lurked behind firing of

RCMP drops NDP bombshell

Former leader Dave Barrett and long-time colleague Bob Williams are named in police documents to be released today.

MARK HUME, JUSTINE HUNTER
and JIM BEATTY
Vancouver Sun

Allegations of bribery, breach of trust and criminal conspiracy involving former NDP premier Dave Barrett and his long-time political colleague, Bob Williams, are contained in RCMP documents to be released today.

The political bombshell prompted Premier Glen Clark to promise he will deliver early next week on his promised public inquiry into the Nanaimo Commonwealth bingo scandal.

In simultaneous press conferences in Vancouver and Victoria on Thursday, Barrett and Williams angrily rejected allegations contained in police search warrant applications that are about to be unsealed by the courts.

"I'm shocked and disturbed by these allegations," a visibly shaken Williams said, as he sat with his lawyer, David Martin, at a hastily called press conference at the Hotel Georgia.

The RCMP documents that contain the explosive charges have been sealed since they were filed last week as part of an exhaustive fraud investigation into the activities of the Nanaimo Commonwealth Holding Society.

Martin said he would agree today to unseal the documents, which he condemned as misguided.

Martin said the search warrant applications cite several sections of the Criminal Code, in outlining for the courts a police argument for seizing documents including files in law offices.

Martin said the Criminal Code provisions "deal with bribery of public officials, breach of trust and the selling of administrative office."

He said the allegations are related to a deal in 1975 that saw Williams resign his Vancouver East seat so that Barrett, defeated that year in a provincial election, could regain a position in the legislature.



STEVE BOSCH/Vancouver Sun

ON DEFENSIVE, former NDP minister Bob Williams (right) and lawyer David Martin talk to the media at press conference

Earlier this year a report by forensic auditor Ron Parks stated that when Williams resigned, he was immediately hired as a consultant by the Nanaimo Commonwealth Holding Society, for a fee of \$80,000.

Parks stated that former NDP treasurer Roger Howard said the arrangement with Williams was initially financed by NCHS because the NDP had insufficient funds after the disastrous 1975 election campaign.

Parks also stated that in his investigation he'd been unable to find any documents that showed Williams had actually worked as a consultant for NCHS.

The RCMP has stated that: "The present investigation follows directly upon the forensic accounting which formed the basis of the Parks Report and examines what became of funds in the accounts of NCHS and related companies and societies."

Williams said there was nothing un-

toward about his deal with NCHS, but he refused to answer questions.

In Victoria, Barrett appeared furious at being named in the RCMP search warrant, which connects him with an alleged criminal conspiracy.

He said he's trying "with some difficulty" to restrain his anger. "What is it that I have done?" he said at a press conference in the rose garden, outside the legislature.

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DAVID HOGBEN
Vancouver Sun

It was the team's p... on the ice that cau... Canucks general man... make the emotional... of firing his coach Ric...

But in the backgro... embarrassing string o... es in its \$165-million... are worries of the fina... organization could t... performs poorly in the...

Quinn said he has... team's projections for... this year. But he said e... offs the team partic... slash about \$1 million... organization expects... 96.

Quinn said Thurs... thinking about econo... nally made the move... and commentators ha... in a hockey town that... expectations dashed.

Immediate econom... alone are not the ba... sions.

"We acquired Alex... full well it was going... roll a massive amount... made in a year in whic... pect to lose a lot of m...

In the short term, Q... got to put the best pos... ice and get everything...

But in the moder... Hockey League, the pl... cal to the balance she... fan perception.

In the last full N... Canucks' most success... pulled in more than \$... off ticket revenue. Th... run, that ended one w... ley Cup, succeeded in... est profit of less than \$...

Plea... QUINN T...