

# Fishing industry worth millions

by Jodie Zuccato

Fishers in the Comox Valley commercial fleet generate an annual gross income of about \$24 million, Comox Valley Economic Society analyst Graham Ashford says.

Almost half that revenue is from salmon fishing, Ashford said at a press conference called Friday to explain the results of a recent survey done to assess the economic input of commercial fishing in the Comox Valley.

Conducted by the local economic development society, a total of 285 questionnaires were mailed out to boat owners and operators from Oyster River to Deep Bay in December 1993.

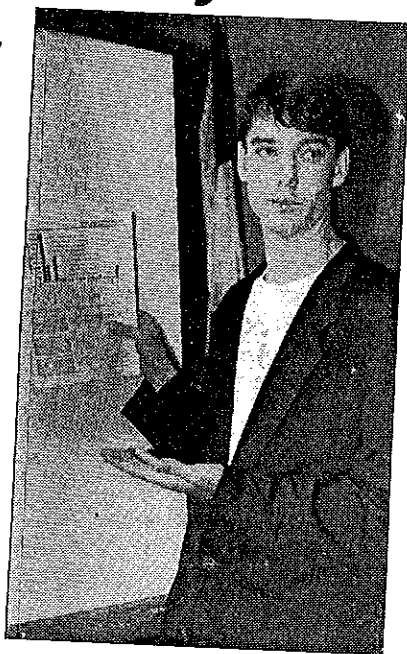
Close to 100 responses were received, Ashford told elected officials, interest groups and members of the media.

Compared to other mailout surveys, the response was good, he added.

As well as determining the economic impact of fishing, the survey also developed a profile of the commercial fishing community, established the demand for related businesses and services, and identified the issues currently affecting commercial fishing in the Comox Valley.

The survey found the average vessel employs 2.8 employees, of which 1.9 are residents of the Comox Valley.

"We estimate the total number



Graham Ashford

of crew members employed by the entire fleet is 831, of which 564 are Comox Valley residents," Ashford said.

And although 78 percent of the respondents moored their vessel at either Comox Marina or Courtenay Slough, fishing was conducted throughout a much larger area including the North and Central coasts, Johnstone Straits, the

Gulf of Georgia and the west coast of the Island, the survey indicated.

About 10 percent of goods and services were purchased in the Comox Valley. Although many said they shop locally when they can, they often have to shop elsewhere, Ashford said.

Economic Development Commissioner Norm McLaren said the society had made some recommendations as a result of the survey.

They include better wharf and moorage facilities, efforts to attract a ship yard with boat haulout capabilities, and investment in a cold storage or ice plant facility.

The society feels a dryland storage/repair facility and a netloft would be assets, as would a well-located marine ways.

Other recommendations include working with the commercial fishing industry, aquaculture and agriculture to put in place a quality farmers' market; attracting a canning/processing facility; developing advanced training courses in navigation and safety; and working with industry to improve marketing, public relations and industry education.

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## Ferry Schedule

### NANAIMO - VANCOUVER (Tsawwassen)

Lv. Nanaimo

5:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.  
8:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.  
10:30 a.m. 8:30 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. 11:00 p.m.

Lv. Tsawwassen

5:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.  
8:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.  
10:30 a.m. 8:30 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. 11:00 p.m.

### NANAIMO - VANCOUVER (Horseshoe Bay)

Lv. Nanaimo

7:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.  
8:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.  
9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.  
11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.  
12:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.

Lv. Horseshoe Bay

7:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.  
9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.  
10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.  
11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.

### VANCOUVER ISLAND - POWELL RIVER

Lv. Comox

7:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m.  
11:15 a.m. 7:15 p.m.

Lv. Powell River

9:15 a.m. 5:00 p.m.  
1:15 a.m. 8:45 p.m.

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WINNING NUMBERS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd

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IN THE EVENT OF DISCREPANCY BETWEEN  
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LIST, THE LATTER SHALL PREVAIL.

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