

CLOSED CONTAINMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR SALMON FARMING

The Comox Valley Regional District board, on occasion, elects to support province-wide concerns and issues in the form of a board resolution. These resolutions are normally forwarded first to the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) for consideration but may also be forwarded directly to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Based on the nature of the concern, UBCM will either endorse or not endorse the recommendation and if endorsed, will present the concern to the provincial or federal government on behalf of all BC municipalities and regional district.

Date of Board meeting: June 26, 2006

Board Resolution: WHEREAS the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has rejected a proposal by the Comox Strathcona Regional District to investigate the development of closed containment demonstration projects for salmon farming because the Ministry believes that land-based salmon farming is uneconomical; AND WHEREAS a demonstration project may assist in developing more environmentally and economically sound methods of fish farming, with collected fish waste actually proving to be a valuable resource and byproduct for this industry; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities work with the Government of Canada to secure further research and development funds to operate a closed containment demonstration project on Vancouver Island which could thoroughly research the environmental and economic benefits of closed containment fish farming.

This resolution was referred to UBCM on, June 28, 2006

A response was received on October 24, 2006

Response from UBCM: On Motion, was ENDORSED at the annual convention.

Additionally this resolution was referred to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Response from DFO (Jan 29, 2006) - DFO is currently evaluating scientific and economic factors related to current closed-containment technologies to gain baseline information on this method of aquaculture. DFO will then be in a better position to provide advice for such research.