

C.R.U.F. Feb 9, 1988

# Conservation derby opposed by Comox

The Comox-Courtenay chapter of the Steelhead Society has voted against the Campbell River Invitational Conservation Derby.

Treasurer Father Charles Brandt said 30 members of the chapter decided Wednesday to oppose the competition, which is scheduled for April.

"There was some quite strong feeling expressed on it," said Brandt.

He said that Ralph Shaw, area representative on the Sports Fishing Advisory Board, told the gathering that his group is opposed to fishing derbies.

"I think it's the whole perception that's really bad, and disconcerting," said Brandt. "In my opinion what we're doing with this derby is exploiting a recreational fishery for economic purposes to make money. And in a sense it becomes no longer a recreation, but a serious money-making competition."

"We seem to be bastardizing our recreation for the sake of money."

Brandt said he is also concerned that chinook salmon stocks are declining despite the efforts of the Salmonid Enhancement Society.