

# REPORTS

## Coast Mountain Route Upgraded

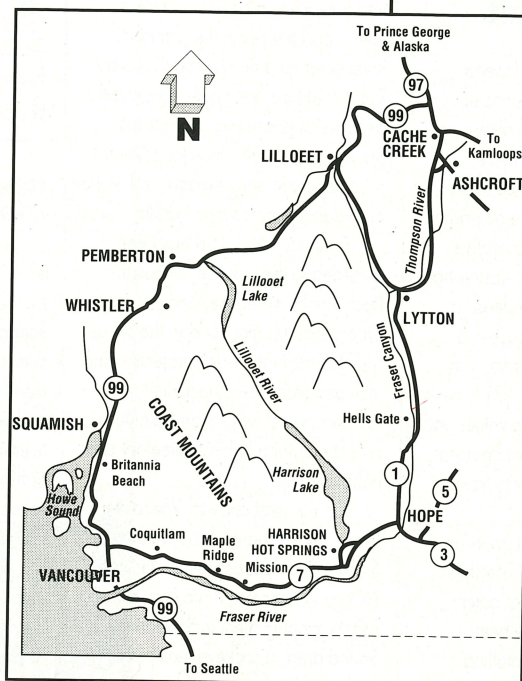
**W**HISTLER — The recent completion of paving on the 90-km Duffey Lake portion of the road between Mount Currie and Lillooet has resulted in a push by the Whistler Resort Association and the Tourism Association of Southwestern B.C. to encourage the use of the Coast Mountain route.

Highway 99, from West Vancouver through Whistler and Pemberton, has been extended to include the new portion to Lillooet and on to the Hat Creek junction on Cariboo Highway 97 (formerly Highway 12).

The circle aspect of this 700-km Coast Mountain route is being touted for coach and tourism traffic, but interior residents now have a direct route to reach the Whistler Recreation Area, as well as the north shore and downtown Vancouver.

Only nine km of the entire route is as yet unpaved and negotiations are underway with the Mount Currie band of the Lil'wat Nation to ensure completion of this stretch in the near future.

— Don Robertson



As the illegal trafficking, possession and commercialization of wildlife and wildlife parts becomes an increasing

concern both inside and outside the national park, wardens are having to attack the problem with modern law-enforcement and scientific techniques.

This is the first of a five-year project in which wardens are concentrating efforts on a thorough photo inventory and marking program on the park's trophy elk and bighorn sheep. Mug shots of trophy and near trophy-aged elk

and bighorn sheep will be taken and catalogued for future reference each year; elk and sheep will also be video-taped. Throughout the photographic inventory, wardens will be consulting with the R.C.M.P. crime lab to ensure the quality of photos and video will be admissible as evidence.

Park wardens will also brand trophy-class bighorn rams, taking silicone impressions of the brand and the surrounding horn; this would provide enough evidence to correctly identify a park ram in case a poacher attempts to remove the brand.

DNA analysis provided from blood samples taken from marked sheep will provide wardens with an incontestable bank of genetic information specific to each individual animal.

A poaching conviction for bighorn sheep, a threatened species, can draw fines of up to \$150,000 and six months in jail. Elk, moose and deer hold penalties of up to \$10,000 and six months in jail. These penalties are currently the highest wildlife fines in the world.

— Mike Briggs,  
Parks Service

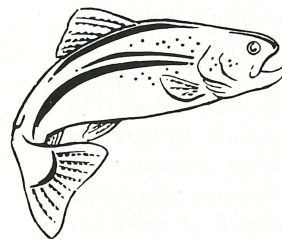
## Driftnet Observer Program Data Released

**V**ANCOUVER — Data collected by Canadian, U.S. and Japanese observers during the 1990 Japanese squid driftnet fishery has been released, confirming that substantial numbers of mammals, birds and fish other than squid were caught in the North Pacific by the Japanese driftnet fishery.

Some 10,000 salmonids were observed as by-catch in the 1990 Japanese squid fishery; this salmon catch is higher than that reported in 1989. Since most of those salmon were of Asian origin, impact on Canadian salmon stocks by the legal Japanese squid fishery during 1990 was minimal; however, there was significant by-catch of marine mammals, sea birds and other non-targeted fish species.

Canada is a key sponsor of U.N. resolutions which call for a moratorium on all driftnet fishing by mid-1992, unless effective measures are taken to prevent unacceptable impacts and to ensure sea life conservation.

— DFO



## Cariboo Lakes Get Seasonal Burp

**W**ILLIAMS LAKE — In spite of the sudden winter weather that struck the Cariboo last October, two lakes containing viable fish stocks are being "burped," reports head biologist Jack Leggett.

A build-up of hydrogen sulfide gases in small lakes, like Jackson and Till lakes, caused by a combination of decaying vegetation and the lack of wind action, frequently requires

## Way To Go Kamloops!

**K**AMLOOPS — In 1993, the eyes of the fly fishing world will be on Kamloops. This B.C. Interior community was selected over three other Canadian locations to host the 1993 World Fly Fishing Championships.

This is the first time the World Fly Fishing Championships will take place in North America. Italy is the site for the 1992 event.

The 1993 competition will take place the week of June 6 to 12. Teams from some 30 nations will fish for brook trout in Edith Lake and for Kamloops trout in Roche and Tunkwa lakes. Catch-and-release methods will be applied throughout the competition, with points deducted for damage to fish.

Kamloops also hosts the Canada

Summer Games in 1993, the centenary of the city's incorporation.

— City of Kamloops



## Jasper Park Poachers Beware

**J**ASPER — Park wardens in Jasper National Park are stepping up their campaign against poaching.

Armed with cameras, physical marking techniques, and DNA fingerprinting, they are augmenting their usual boundary and roadside patrols.

Jasper's valleys are essential wildlife habitat, providing prime grazing and calving areas for protected populations of elk and bighorn sheep.