

## **Hanford Fish Rearing Program Expands**

RICHLAND, Wash., May 24, 1995 -- Fish rearing facilities on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Hanford Site are now growing the largest number of fish in the history of the program.

The Yakama Indian Nation has delivered 700,000 fingerling Fall Chinook salmon to the facilities where the fish will grow until they can be released directly into the Columbia River.

The fish are being reared in a surplus water purification plant which once provided clean water to nearby reactors. The plant has been transformed into a fish rearing facility which is expected to spawn a full-scale fish production operation over the next few years. Fish have been reared in the facility on an experimental basis for the past three years.

"The expansion of the program takes us one more step toward the DOE objective of turning these surplus facilities into a new industry that can provide jobs for our area," said Dan Herborn of Westinghouse Hanford Company (Westinghouse). Westinghouse is the management and operations contractor at Hanford.

Salmon are but one species of fish reared in the facilities at Hanford. Other species include white sturgeon, channel catfish, and rainbow trout. The facility where the salmon are being reared was recently refurbished with help from the Salmon Corps which is a youth conservation program run by the Yakama Nation.

The salmon will be held at Hanford for about a month and a half before being released to the Columbia River to help replenish dwindling runs. The Hanford Reach is the last free flowing stretch of the Columbia River.

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