

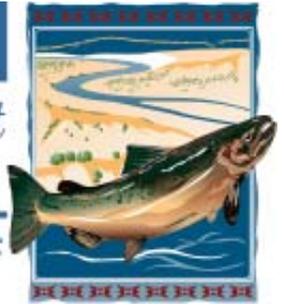


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

*Hanford Reach National Monument*

*Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge*

*... protecting the last of the free-flowing Columbia River.*



## “Salmon in the Classroom” heads for the Sea

Cooperating partners gathered March 30th to celebrate the end of a four month project in which regional elementary schools learned about salmon by hatching eggs and raising fry in their classrooms. The project is funded by the Department of Energy and administered by the National Resource Conservation Service. Wildlife biologist Heidi Newsome from Hanford Reach National Monument and Todd Newsome and Melinda Davis from Yakama Nation Fisheries hosted over 200 students who gathered for the day to say good-bye to the Chinook salmon fry they had cared for and to send them on their ocean journey. Each student carefully transferred a single fry from the holding tanks to their clear plastic cup for inspection and release into the Columbia River.



After watching their fish catch the current for the trip downstream, they broke into groups to rotate through stations where the biologists explained the salmon's life cycle and demonstrated tools of fishery management. Heidi Newsome described the long journey the salmon are to face in their migration to and from the ocean and hazards they will face along the way.

Melinda Davis explained the use of “PIT tags” to identify individual salmon and demonstrated the method of implanting and reading them. Todd Newsome showed students how to use telemetry to track fish carrying small radio transmitters and helped them into the backpack equipment used for electroshocking.



The workshop was a huge success and will prove to become an annual event now that the schools have the necessary equipment to maintain water quality conditions in their classrooms. The students ended the day by thanking the biologists for being at their field trip and showed off their official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Salmon and Steelhead coloring books.

