The Council recognizes habitat restoration alone cannot meet the protection and mitigation requirements of the Northwest Power Act nor our own Fish and Wildlife Program objectives. We support the implementation of artificial production programs throughout the Columbia River Basin to: 1) complement habitat improvements by supplementing native fish populations, and 2) replace lost salmon and steelhead in blocked areas.
The program relies on the Spokane Tribal Hatchery and the Sherman Creek and Ford hatcheries (operated by WDFW) to produce rainbow trout, kokanee, and white sturgeon to support tribal harvest, sport fisheries, and species restoration efforts as mitigation for anadromous fish losses. The Spokane Tribal Hatchery produces triploid rainbow trout and kokanee. Rainbow trout are transferred to Sherman Creek Hatchery and Lake Roosevelt net pens for final rearing before being released while kokanee are fully reared on site. The Sherman Creek Hatchery also supports the wild larvae-based juvenile white sturgeon rearing program that was started in 2010.