



NOAA FISHERIES

West Coast Region

Audience

Grades 3+

Learn More

- Science in Studio award
- Pacific salmon
- Salmon educational materials

Additional Resources

For additional marine science activities and lesson plans, [visit our website](#).

Questions or Comments?

If you have questions about the mural, are interested in funding the mural, or want to paint the mural in your community, please contact wcr.education@noaa.gov.

Salmon Mural Information Packet

Overview

A shared vision—bridging environmental conservation with art to create social change—helped form a novel partnership between NOAA Fisheries and the Pacific Northwest College of Art. This partnership launched the Science in Studio award. One of the 2015 awardees, Esteban Camacho Steffensen, designed a salmon-shaped mural template. This template illustrates the relationship between toxic runoff—which can kill an adult salmon in less than three hours—and the health of watersheds.¹ It also highlights sources of toxics to remind people that their individual choices can affect watershed health.



This mural is designed as a community-building project. It can also serve as a capstone for a unit of study on salmon. The template can be projected onto a wall and traced by anyone—no matter their artistic ability. With a team of volunteers, an 12 x 12 foot mural can be completed in about four days. A community painting event can be a great way to kick off [Earth Day](#), [Endangered Species Day](#), [World Fish Migration Day](#), and other environmentally-themed events.



Members of Lake City Youth Leaders practice painting salmon.



Nearly 100 volunteers helped paint a salmon mural for World Fish Migration Day 2016.



Esteban coached mural painting volunteers at the Ballard Locks in Seattle, WA.



The Bret Harte Elementary Student Council worked with local artist Art Martinez to customize a steelhead mural for their Long Beach, CA community.

Why salmon?

Salmon are much more than essential elements of a healthy ecosystem; they are cultural icons woven into the fabric of West Coast communities and economies. Their annual migrations—up to 1,000 miles—are a miracle of nature.

Pacific salmon fuel a \$3 billion industry, supporting tens of thousands of jobs and local communities around the coast. Millions of people rely on salmon as a healthy and reliable source of protein.

Salmon are the key to protecting a way of life rooted in the West Coast: protect salmon and you protect forests, food, water, communities, and economies. Unfortunately, salmon are facing unparalleled challenges from habitat destruction to dams, droughts, and climate change.

You can support the recovery of salmon by [making small changes at home](#) and becoming an advocate for salmon. By installing a salmon mural in your community, you can raise awareness salmon and watershed health.

Installation

The mural design is free for the public to use. It can easily be projected on to a wall and traced. The template can be scaled to many different sizes, and can be painted on walls, canvasses, or banners. If you are interested in completing the mural, please download the [high-resolution template](#) and [let us know](#) that you plan on installing it.

Costs and Funding

Supplies for the installation of a 12x12' mural cost roughly \$600. Your local community arts council might be able to provide grants to help cover these costs. See the table on Page 3 for the suggested supplies.

Outreach Support

NOAA Fisheries may be able to provide education and materials to display near the mural and during unveiling events. Depending on the location, NOAA Fisheries may also be able to send staff to your unveiling event to talk about salmon, conduct salmon activities with kids, and discuss habitat restoration projects. Contact wcr.education@noaa.gov for more information.

Customization and Commissions

Esteban, the mural designer, may be available to customize the mural for your location or install the mural at your site. To discuss potential options, [contact Esteban](#).

Suggested Supplies for a 12X12' Mural (pricing as of December 2021)

Brand	Item	SKU	Quantity	Price	Total
AFM SafeCoat	Transitional Primer (Int/Ext)		1 gallon	\$61.90	\$61.90
Nova Color	Arylide Yellow	178-2	1 pint	\$18.75	\$18.75
Nova Color	Ultramarine Blue	122-2	1 pint	\$8.50	\$8.50
Nova Color	Blue Green	142-2	1 pint	\$7.50	\$7.50
Nova Color	Deep Green	184-2	1 pint	\$14.00	\$14.00
Nova Color	Payne's Gray	140-2	1 pint	\$13.00	\$13.00
Nova Color	Raw Umber Dark	117D-2	1 pint	\$8.50	\$8.50
Nova Color	Organic Pyrrole Orange	110-2	1 pint	\$20.00	\$20.00
Nova Color	Medium Violet/Purple	186-2	1 pint	\$9.75	\$9.75
Nova Color	Slow Dry Matte Liquid	217-3	1 quart	\$8.00	\$8.00
Nova Color	Flex Gel	213-4	1 gallon	\$32.00	\$32.00
Nova Color	Emerald (pearl)	161-2	1 pint	\$9.00	\$9.00
Mural Shield	Graffiti Coating		1 gallon	\$65.00	\$65.00
Mural Shield	Mural Shield		1 gallon	\$99.00	\$99.00
Royal Langnickel	Clear Choice Brush Set - Tynex, Round, Set of 60, Long Handle	05891-1139	1 set	\$50.75	\$50.75
Royal Langnickel	Zen Watercolor Brush - Angular, Size 1/2"	09348-1012	5 brushes	\$3.99	\$19.95
Quali-Tech	9 piece roller tray kit	00028076075098	5 sets	\$12.99	\$64.95
Jen Mgf	Poly foam brush display, 48 piece	42905998	1 set	\$40.05	\$40.05

Total (without shipping and taxes) \$550.60

Additional Supplies

Depending on your mural location, the following supplies may also be helpful.

- Buckets for water
- Cleaning rags
- Drop cloths
- Ladders
- Paint roller extenders