



# Salmon Education.org

## Save the Salmon Scavenger Hunt

Welcome to the salmon scavenger hunt! Pacific salmon play a huge role in coastal ecosystems and the culture of our province. Today you are going to look for the places that salmon like to live, and areas that could use improving! Once you have read this page, you will turn it over and be on your way.

- ◇ Salmon Eggs need a constant supply of clean water to survive. This is why the adult spawners bury them in rocks that are 1-2 Inches. This keeps the eggs safe from predators while still ensuring circulation.
- ◇ Rivers and streams are facing the threat of increasingly becoming too warm for fish to survive well. Shade from shoreline (riparian) plants are crucial in keeping temperatures down, and their roots help to stabilize the river banks. If the banks were to wash away, they would leave a lot of silt and sand on bottom which salmon eggs would have a hard time dealing with.
- ◇ In stream juvenile and adult salmon need places to hide and shelter from the current. Large woody debris in the river is a great current break and safe haven.
- ◇ Salmon are 'terminal spawners,' meaning they pass away after they have laid their eggs. Their bodies help the natural cycle, as they help to feed bugs in the water, juvenile fish, and the root systems of trees, that in turn help them. It is all connected!

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Salmon are such an important species in the Pacific Ocean! While they are strong and resilient, they face many daily challenges that put them at risk. Try your best to complete this scavenger hunt, to find ideal salmon habitat and help make their lives easier! Head down to a local stream or river to give it a try!

River or Creek Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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|  | Find a tree that shades the river. Stream coverage helps protect salmon fry from predators and the heat of direct sunlight.   |
|  | Identify "Large Woody Debris." This structure gives adult and juvenile salmon a break from direct river current and a place to avoid predation.   |
|  | Find a piece of garbage on the stream bank and remove it to ensure it doesn't end up in the water ways.   |
|  | Find good Spawning gravel! Adult salmon prefer rocks the size of a loonie and up to 2" wide. They avoid fine sand and large rocks as neither are good for their eggs!                                       |
|  | See if you can spot any salmon fry or adults! Look in the above mentioned habitat. Can you identify the species?  |
|  | Did you spot any other wildlife? Squirrels, bears, and insects all love creeks!   |
|  | Are there any major obstructions in the area you are looking or major pieces of refuse?   |
|  | Bonus: Can you find yellow fish painted near storm drains in your neighborhood? Anything going down these drains ends up in fish habitat. Ask your family if they are being careful of what goes down them! |