

Salmon Tales Teacher's Information

SALMON TALES SCHOOL PROGRAM

What to expect

During the Salmon Tales School Program, your students are transformed into fisheries biologists. Their mission is to investigate how salmon live, and how people can successfully manage them to conserve and restore healthy populations throughout B.C.'s waters.

Small groups of students travel through the Aquarium's cold water galleries under the guidance of enthusiastic, highly-trained volunteer educators, looking into live habitats containing salmon, their predators and their prey. Classes will also have the opportunity to visit the BC Hydro Salmon Stream Project in Stanley Park and the BC Forest Headwaters Exhibit. Students track the life stages of salmon from egg to adult, and from the rivers of their birth to their adult home, the ocean.

In their travels through the galleries, small groups dissect a fish, see the major differences between Pacific salmon species, compare live salmon to other species of fishes in Aquarium exhibits, identify different species based on their shape, size, and movement, and discuss how these traits are related to their lifestyle and habitat.

Your newly-trained "fisheries biologists" also learn about conservation and sustainable fishing strategies, find out how to assess salmon stocks and discover why they are important. By the end of the program, your students will understand the role of salmon in the ecosystems they inhabit and know more about conserving these amazing fish.

The Salmon Tales School Program provides an exciting, educational experience that complements the learning outcomes of the B.C. Ministry of Education's Integrated Resource Packages.

For curriculum connections click on Part 5 of the Salmon Tales Educator's Guide.

The general objectives of this program are to:

- Identify different species of salmon and other fishes
- Introduce students to the life cycle of salmon and to the diversity of salmon species and stocks in British Columbia's waters
- Introduce the ecosystems, predators and prey that salmon encounter during the different stages of their life cycle
- Show the importance of salmon in the cultural and economic history of British Columbia
- Develop observation and critical thinking skills and the ability to communicate scientific observations and conclusions to others
- Show the value of aquatic life and instill an ethic for its conservation