Draw Ocean Fish Scale Rows with Shading: A Step-by-Step Guide

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

Draw three rows on a 100 mm-wide strip. Head row: 20 mm-wide, 12 mm-high scales. Middle row: 18 mm-wide, 11 mm-high scales, with its top guide 10 mm below the first guide. Tail row: 16 mm-wide, 10 mm-high scales, with its top guide 9 mm below the middle guide. Offset each new row by half its width and shade the overlap edge.

Answer: Use widths of 20 mm, 18 mm, and 16 mm from head to tail, with heights of 12 mm, 11 mm, and 10 mm. Put the row guides at 0, 10, and 19 mm. The overlaps are $12-10=2$ mm and $11-9=2$ mm; the third row ends 29 mm below the first guide. Stagger the middle and tail rows by half their own widths and use partial edge scales where needed. Put a light highlight on the upper-left arc and a darker crescent on the lower-right overlap edge.

Reason: The width sequence gives a decreasing scale size. Row pitch sets each guide position, and scale height minus pitch gives the overlap. Because the rows are staggered, the exact number of full scales depends on edge alignment, so this example checks the stated guide and overlap arithmetic.

Check: Verify guides 0, 10, and 19 mm; calculate overlaps $12-10=2$ and $11-9=2$; and calculate the tail-row bottom as $19+10=29$ mm. Measure the three widths and confirm they decrease toward the tail.