

Crochet Tuna Fish Rug Pattern

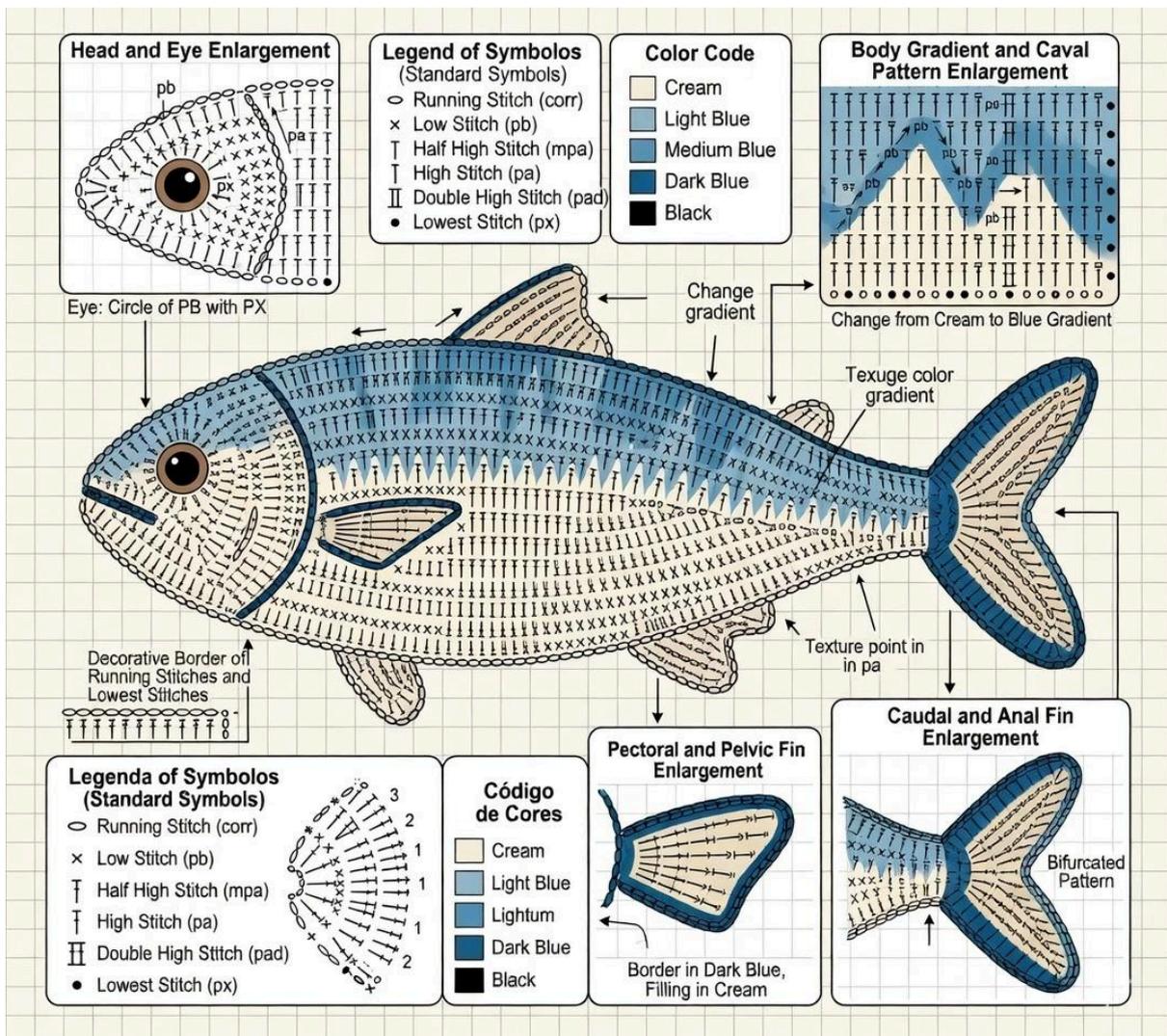
US Crochet Terms – Detailed Step-by-Step Guide

Skill Level: Intermediate

Finished Size: approximately 26–34 inches (65–85 cm) depending on yarn weight and hook size.

This tuna fish rug is worked mostly in **oval rows**, beginning at the head and expanding toward the body and tail. The fins and tail are crocheted separately and then attached to the body. Color changes create the fish's natural gradient from cream to blue.

The rug uses simple stitches but requires shaping and color transitions to form the realistic fish silhouette.



Materials

- Cotton rug yarn or t-shirt yarn (recommended for rugs)
- Color A – Cream (belly and head)
- Color B – Light Blue
- Color C – Medium Blue
- Color D – Dark Blue (top and border)
- Black yarn (eye)

Tools:

- Crochet hook 5 mm – 8 mm depending on yarn thickness
 - Yarn needle
 - Stitch markers
 - Scissors
 - Optional non-slip rug backing
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Crochet Abbreviations (US Terms)

ch – chain
sl st – slip stitch
sc – single crochet
hdc – half double crochet
dc – double crochet
tr – treble crochet
inc – increase (2 stitches in same stitch)
dec – decrease
st – stitch

Pattern Overview

The rug is made in these sections:

1. Head
2. Expanding body
3. Tail base

4. Tail fin
 5. Side fins (pectoral fins)
 6. Top fin (dorsal fin)
 7. Bottom fins
 8. Final border
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Part 1 – Head

Using **cream yarn**.

Row 1

Ch 6.

Sc in second chain from hook and across.

(5 sc)

Row 2

Ch 1 and turn.

Inc in first stitch.

Sc across.

Inc in last stitch.

(7 sc)

Row 3

Ch 1, turn.

Sc across.

Row 4

Increase at both ends again.

(9 sc)

Row 5–8

Continue increasing at both edges every second row to widen the head.

This creates the rounded front of the fish.

Part 2 – Body Expansion

Continue working rows.

Row 9–16

Switch gradually to **light blue yarn**.

Increase at both edges every second row.

Stitches transition from:

sc → hdc → dc

This allows the body to expand faster.

Row 17–24

Switch to **medium blue yarn**.

Work mostly **dc stitches**.

Increase slightly along the top edge to form the curved back of the fish.

The belly edge remains straighter.

Part 3 – Tail Base

Row 25–30

Switch to **dark blue yarn**.

Start decreasing slightly on both sides.

Work dc across rows while tapering the body.

End when the tail base width is about **6–8 stitches**.

Fasten off.

Part 4 – Tail Fin

Attach dark blue yarn to tail base.

Row 1

Ch 2

Work 2 dc in each stitch across.

Row 2

Turn.

Ch 2.

Increase at both ends.

Row 3

Work dc evenly.

Row 4

Decrease slightly in center to create split tail.

Row 5

Work dc across each side of split to form **two tail lobes**.

Fasten off.

Part 5 – Pectoral Fins (Side Fins)

Make 2.

Using cream yarn.

Ch 5.

Row 1

Sc across.

Row 2

Ch 1, turn.

Inc, sc, inc.

Row 3

Work hdc across.

Row 4

Switch to light blue.

Dc across.

Fasten off.

Sew one fin on each side of the fish body.

Part 6 – Dorsal Fin (Top Fin)

Attach medium blue yarn along the top middle of the body.

Ch 6.

Row 1

Sc across.

Row 2

Ch 1, turn.

Work hdc across.

Row 3

Dc across.

Fasten off and sew base neatly onto body.

Part 7 – Bottom Fins

Create two smaller fins near the belly.

Ch 4.

Row 1

Sc across.

Row 2

Hdc across.

Fasten off and attach to underside.

Part 8 – Eye

Using black yarn.

Create a small **French knot or tiny crochet circle**.

Sew near the front of the head.

Optional: add a small white stitch for eye highlight.

Part 9 – Decorative Border

Attach **dark blue yarn** around entire fish.

Round 1

Work sc evenly around the whole edge.

Round 2

For a clean outline:

1 sc, 1 sl st repeat around.

This creates a firm border and defines the fish shape.

Fasten off.

Finishing

- Weave in all yarn ends securely.
 - Steam block lightly if needed.
 - Attach non-slip backing if using as a floor rug.
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Tips for Best Results

Use cotton or t-shirt yarn for durability.

Keep increases smooth to maintain the natural fish shape.

Use stitch markers to track the top and bottom edges while shaping.

The gradient color change from cream to dark blue gives the rug a realistic tuna appearance.