

## OSPREY FISHING GAME (For two players)

### Background

Ospreys soar above the water at a height of about 30m and look directly down into the water to see the fish on which they will feed. On seeing fish they will turn over the area and plunge down to take the fish.

There is a film of an osprey catching a fish at <https://www.lrwt.org.uk/osprey-videos>

If unsuccessful they will return to cruising height and if fish have not dispersed, they may have a second attempt. If the fish have been frightened away, the osprey will move to another area to fish but will return to a site of a “near miss” when the fish return to the surface of the water.

This game has several aspects of key importance to a predator like an osprey.

- **Chance** - finding where the fish are
- **Strategy** - using “miss “ and “near miss” results to plan the next fishing area.
- **Competition** - Ospreys are predators and compete for fish in a lake habitat.

To feed themselves and their young they must be good at catching fish!

### Playing the game

Teachers must look at the playing rules. There are two ways the game can be used.

### Older and more able pupils

Games rules and playing maps are given out .Pupils can read the instructions and then play can commence.

### Younger pupils or those needing more help

Give out the playing maps and explain how to play the game.

An interactive white board or projected image of the playing map could be useful to explain the rules.



## OSPREY FISHING GAME (For two players) cont.

### Other educational aspects

A chance for discussion and research based on the game.

This game has an element of chance and strategy just like osprey fishing in a reservoir.

### Fish behaviour;

Is it better to place the fish in a group, called a **shoal**?

A catch will mean the fishing osprey will probably move on to another area to fish so any “near miss” fish around will be safe!

Is it better to randomly place the fish all over the reservoir?

This means more free space around each fish so more chance of a “miss” for a fishing osprey.

### Osprey behaviour;

Should the osprey fish randomly or should it continue to fish around a “near miss” to ensure a catch?

Why do ospreys fish alone rather than in groups? Are there any fish eating birds which feed in groups?

