



# Port Lincoln Osprey

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## 2023-10-27 - A Fresh Experiment: Ospreys, Fish, and Their Future

On our barge, there's an ongoing experiment. If you've noticed, fish are being delivered regularly. Wondering why? Let's delve into the context.

This isn't just a random act. The objective is clear: to maintain a consistent food source on the barge. By doing this, we aim to understand if a steady food supply:

- Boosts the well-being of both osprey chicks and parents.
- Reduces conflicts among siblings.
- Offers the young ospreys a higher likelihood of fledging.

But why is this important? It's all part of a bigger picture: to uplift the osprey population in South Australia by giving them the best possible start.

The idea originated from a study conducted in the Chesapeake Bay, "[Food supplementation increases reproductive performance of ospreys](#)". Inspired, the Friends of Osprey in South Australia began consulting experts and relevant authorities about replicating this experiment in Port Lincoln. The result? Our barge became the designated test site.

Here's what we're hoping to uncover:

1. How does a consistent food supply influence the well-being of the ospreys in the nest? Can it curb conflicts?
2. What's the least intrusive method of delivering fish? What are the effects of frequent nest visits?
3. How often should fish be supplied?
4. How does this affect the fishing habits of the osprey parents?
5. In the event of success, how can this be adapted to other sites, especially those that might be less accessible?
6. Ultimately, will this strategy benefit the overall osprey population in South Australia?

Rest assured, the entire process is under meticulous observation. Should any negative impacts be noticed, adjustments will be made. For a more holistic view, we also have the nest at Tumbly Island serving as a reference.

Now, some might wonder: 'Aren't there enough fish in the wild?' While it might seem that way, our observations paint a different picture. Sibling rivalries have, in the past, resulted in siblicide due to limited food supply. Many factors, like unfavorable weather and energy expended during failed fishing attempts, can make it challenging for ospreys. And let's consider another dimension - Dad himself. His exact age remains a mystery, and it's possible that he tires more easily now than before. Additionally, he experienced a week-long collapse two years ago, which might have lingering effects on his health and energy levels.

It's essential to remember that not every water body is the same; diverse factors influence fish availability.

### Supporters and Skeptics

We understand this initiative might spark a range of reactions. Some might support it, while others might be skeptical. We value and respect all opinions and hope for mutual respect in return.