

Intelligence Division • Case File

FISHING MASTERY

A Field Guide to Efficient 1-99 Training - Barbarian Angling Protocol



SUBJECT	Fishing (1-99)	SCOPE	Covers both F2P and members routes; live game version, 2026.
ENTRY POINT	Level 1 Fishing	TARGET	Level 99 Fishing

Briefing. Barbarian Fishing at Otto's Grotto (Leaping Trout through Sturgeon) is the members endgame method, and it genuinely grants **Fishing, Strength, and Agility experience** from the same clicks - but its Fishing-only xp/hr (23,000-57,000 AFK) is modest next to the roughly 13 million xp still needed at level 48, so the realistic P2P total is closer to **240-250 hours** than a quick grind. A separate Free-to-Play route reaches 99 using only F2P-accessible spots, at roughly **440-660 hours** - still the largest total in the skill, but not the 10x gap sometimes assumed.

PROGRESSION LADDER



1

START



30

FLY FISHING



48

BARB. FISHING



99

99

ICON	TIER	LEVEL RANGE	METHOD	KEY REQUIREMENT
	I	1-30	Shrimp/Anchovy Net, Lobster/Cage Fishing	None
	II	30-48	Fly Fishing (Trout/Salmon)	Fishing rod + Feathers
	III	48-99	Barbarian Fishing - Leaping Trout to Sturgeon	Otto's Grotto unlock + 15/30/45 Agility & Strength

Reading The Access Tags

F2P

Free-to-Play - no membership required for this method.

P2P

Pay-to-Play - requires an active OSRS membership.

F2P & P2P

Identical method works on either account type.

Free-to-Play Status

Barbarian Fishing (Otto's Grotto) and Infernal Eels both require membership. The two F2P tiers below use only Free-to-Play-accessible spots and tools the entire way to 99. They are slower than the members route that follows, but the real gap is roughly **2-2.5x**, not the order-of-magnitude difference some guides claim - see the recap for the full math.

F2P TIER I - NET & FLY FISHING (SHRIMP → TROUT/SALMON)

F2P

1 → 50

**METHOD**

Small Fishing Net (Shrimp/Anchovies), then Fly Fishing with a rod + feathers (Trout/Salmon)

**LOCATION**

Lumbridge/Al Kharid F2P net spots; Barbarian Village fly-fishing spot (F2P)

EST. TIME (THIS TIER)

~5-10 hrs

REQUIREMENTS

Fishing rod + Feathers (for the fly-fishing stage)

RATE

~10,000-20,000 xp/hr

Identical tools and technique to P2P Tiers I-II below - this stretch doesn't need membership at all. Total xp to level 50 is only about 101,000, a small slice of the ~12.9 million still needed after it.

F2P ENDGAME

F2P TIER II - LOBSTER & SWORDFISH (KARAMJA F2P DOCKS)

F2P

50 → 99

**METHOD**

Lobster Pot (Lobster, 40+), then Harpoon (Swordfish, 50+)

**LOCATION**

Karamja Free-to-Play fishing docks

EST. TIME (THIS TIER)

~430-650 hrs

REQUIREMENTS

Lobster pot; Harpoon

RATE

~20,000-30,000 xp/hr

This is the realistic F2P ceiling method - there is no F2P equivalent to Barbarian Fishing, and almost 12.9 million of the roughly 13.03 million total xp for 99 Fishing sits above level 50, so this single flat-rate tier is nearly the entire grind.

TIER I - NET & CAGE FISHING

P2P

1 → 30

**METHOD**

Small Fishing Net (Shrimp/Anchovies), then Lobster Pot/Cage (Lobster, Crayfish)

LOCATION

Any starter fishing spot; Catherby or Karamja for lobster

EST. TIME (THIS TIER)

~1-2 hrs

REQUIREMENTS

None

RATE

~10,000-20,000 xp/hr

Only about 13,000 xp is needed to hit level 30 - switch to the next tool as soon as it's usable rather than maxing out the current one, and don't expect this tier to take long.

TIER II - FLY FISHING (TROUT & SALMON)

F2P

30 → 48

**METHOD**

Fly Fishing with a Fishing rod + Feathers

LOCATION

Barbarian Village or Lumbridge Swamp fishing spot

EST. TIME (THIS TIER)

~2-4 hrs

REQUIREMENTS

Fishing rod + Feathers

RATE

~20,000-30,000 xp/hr

Also trains directly toward the level 48 Barbarian Fishing unlock at Otto's Grotto - don't skip past it. Use this stretch to also build Agility and Strength toward 30/30 if either is lagging (see Tier III's secondary requirements).

FLAGSHIP ROUTE

TIER III - BARBARIAN FISHING: LEAPING TROUT → SALMON → STURGEON

P2P

48 → 99

**METHOD**

Barbarian Fishing (heavy rod + bait) at Otto's Grotto

**LOCATION**

Otto's Grotto, Barbarian Training area

EST. TIME (THIS TIER)

~240-245 hrs AFK; ~125-135 hrs with 3-tick (advanced)

REQUIREMENTS

48 Fishing, 15 Agility, 15 Strength for Leaping Trout; 30/30 Agility/Strength for Leaping Salmon (lvl 58); 45/45 for Leaping Sturgeon (lvl 70)

RATE

~23,000-57,000 xp/hr AFK (dropping fish); ~41,000-108,000 xp/hr with 3-tick manipulation

Leaping fish grant Fishing, Strength, AND Agility xp simultaneously (roughly 10:1 Fishing-to-each-secondary-skill), plus optional bonus Cooking xp from gutting fish for bait - widely regarded the best all-round Fishing method past level 48. **Check your Agility/Strength before relying on this tier.** Leaping Salmon and Sturgeon gate behind higher secondary-stat requirements than most players expect at those Fishing levels. Infernal Eels (level 80, **Mor Ul Rek/TzHaar area - not Fossil Island**) are a GP-positive alternative once unlocked, but their ~29,700-34,000 xp/hr is actually lower than Barbarian Fishing's at the same level - it trades xp/hr for profit and low effort, not the other way around.



QUICK-REFERENCE RECAP

Combined Estimate

Full 1-99 Fishing via the members route totals roughly **240-250 hours** of AFK play (or **125-135 hours** using 3-tick manipulation), not the 18-25 hours sometimes quoted - the math: Tier I ~1-2 hrs + Tier II ~2-4 hrs + Tier III ~240-245 hrs AFK (12,951,000 xp at 23,000-57,000 xp/hr, scaling with level). The Free-to-Play route reaches 99 too, taking roughly **440-660 hours** total.

Recommended Approach

If membership is available at any point during the grind, switch to the P2P route immediately - there is no xp lost by switching methods mid-level; Fishing xp is method-agnostic per level. Learning 3-tick manipulation for Tier III roughly halves the total time, making it the single highest-value technique investment in the whole skill.

Why The Gap Is Real But Smaller Than It Looks

P2P's Barbarian Fishing beats the F2P ceiling by roughly **2-2.5x** at realistic AFK rates - a genuine advantage, but far short of the 10x figure some guides imply. The gap comes from Barbarian Fishing's higher Fishing-only xp/hr at high levels (up to 57,000 AFK vs. F2P's flat 20,000-30,000) plus its bonus Strength/Agility xp, not from any single dramatic mechanic.

Related Skills

Barbarian Fishing's leaping fish grant **both Strength and Agility xp alongside Fishing xp** from the same clicks, making Tier III efficient to run alongside either grind - see the Strength or Agility Mastery dossiers for a compatible training schedule. No equivalent dual-xp bonus exists on the F2P route.

Membership Value Check

At roughly 200 hours saved even at the honest AFK comparison, membership still pays for itself many times over in Fishing terms if 99 Fishing is a genuine goal - just budget the real ~240-hour P2P timeline rather than expecting a quick grind.

ICON	TIER	LEVEL RANGE	REQUIREMENT	LOCATION	RATE (XP/HR)	EST. TIME
	F2P I - Net & Fly Fishing	1-50	None (F2P)	Lumbridge / Barbarian Village	~10k-20k	~5-10 hrs
	F2P II - Lobster & Swordfish	50-99	Lobster pot; Harpoon (F2P)	Karamja F2P Docks	~20k-30k	~430-650 hrs
	P2P I - Net & Cage Fishing	1-30	None	Any starter spot / Catherby	~10k-20k	~1-2 hrs
	P2P II - Fly Fishing	30-48	Fishing rod + Feathers	Barbarian Village	~20k-30k	~2-4 hrs
	P2P III - Barbarian Fishing	48-99	48 Fish / 15-45 Agi & Str	Otto's Grotto	~23k-57k AFK	~240-245 hrs

All figures approximate. In-game xp rates, minigame rewards, and item prices fluctuate and were sourced from the OSRS Wiki current as of early September 2026. This dossier assumes full game access unless noted otherwise. Always confirm current mechanics in-game before committing to a specific Fishing method. F2P/P2P access rules reflect the post-2023 Free-to-Play world map expansion and are subject to future updates.

- OSRS Wiki - Pay-to-play Fishing training
- OSRS Wiki - Barbarian Training (Heavy rod fishing)
- OSRS Wiki - Infernal eel
- OSRS Wiki - Free-to-play
- OSRS Wiki - Lobster
- OSRS Wiki - Swordfish

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