

Flyfishing – What It ISN'T & Why It's Different

Flyfishing is NOT NECESSARILY EXPENSIVE.

There are plenty of fly rod outfits (rod, reel and line) available for under \$100, some even under \$50. Can it be expensive? You bet ... just like wing-shooting (with a Mossberg or a Parker). But it does not HAVE to be.

Flyfishing is NOT JUST FOR TROUT IN MOUNTAIN STREAMS.

Any kind of water that holds any kind of fish can be plied with a fly rod.

Flyfishing is NOT THAT DIFFICULT TO LEARN.

Flyfishing is just different. You cast the line not the lure. You have to wait for the line to straighten out behind you (or in front) before you can make it go out in front of you (or behind) in a straight line.

Flyfishing is different from spin-fishing and bait-fishing because:

- ==> **-In spin- and bait-casting, the weight of the lure pulls the line off the reel when you cast.**
- In fly-fishing, **you** pull the line off the reel **and cast it and it drags the fly along with it** (attached by the leader).
- ==> -In spin- and bait-casting, you have to reel the lure all the way in before you can cast it again.
- In fly-fishing, **you can lift the line off the water with the rod tip and re-cast the fly to a new spot.**
- ==> -Braided nylon or monofilament are used for spin- and bait-casting lines.
- Fly lines are **a braided dacron core covered with PVC plastic**. Inside the plastic are thousands of **microscopic hollow glass spheres** (that make the line float) **or tungsten dust** (that gives the line weight to sink).

- ==> **-The bigger the fly** you want to cast, **the heavier the fly line you need** to cast it.

- ==> -In spin- and bait-casting, the rod is chosen for having a particular action or for its design to be used for specific kind of fishing.
- In fly-fishing, **you chose a rod based on what weight line you want to cast** (which is determined by what size flies you will be casting).
- ==> -In spin- and bait-casting the reel is used all the time, when you cast and when you reel in.
- In flyfishing **the reel is mostly just a place to store the line when you are not fishing**. When you want to flycast, **you** pull the line off the reel and hold it in loose coils so that it will flow out through the rod guides when you wave the rod back and forth.
- ==> -In spin- and bait-casting, you use live bait or organic parts - the lures have smell and taste.
- In fly-fishing, the fly is just some feathers, fur, foam or cork on a hook - **no smell, no taste** - you have to fool the fish by sight only. This sometimes makes it more difficult, but that's part of the fun.

- ==> **-Fish eat insects all of their lives all times of day** because insects are always living in the water. Fly-hooked fish are almost always hooked around their mouths. Bait-hooked fish usually swallow the hook. If you plan to release your fish, use flies.

- ==> -In spin- and bait-casting you can only let the lure drift with the current or sit still or reel it in towards you.
- In fly-fishing, you can drift the lure, **make it move in almost any direction** making it appear very lifelike.

For around here, NKFF recommends **an 8-foot rod for a #5 line** if you intend to fish the local streams. You will have more fun with this than a heavier outfit because in the streams the fish are mostly smaller than in farm ponds and lakes. If you plan to fish farm ponds and lakes for larger fish, you probably should use **a 9-foot rod for a #8 line**. Use a Weight Forward (**WF**) or Double Taper (**DT**) fly line, not a level (**L**) line. **Level lines are hard to cast**. Don't be scared off by the higher cost of a WF or DT line. With common-sense care, **a modern fly line will last you three-to-six years**. Take some casting lessons from someone who knows how to cast.

There is a lot of GOOD money thrown at BAD fly-casting! Fancy, expensive gear will not make you a better flyfisher ... Practicing your fly-casting and flyfishing **OFTEN** will make you better!