

**Federation of Fly Fishers  
Master Fly Casting Instructor  
Performance Test**

**Evaluation Form**

## Master Certified Instructor Performance Test

Equipment: All equipment will be supplied by the candidate.

Rod: 9 ft. (2.74m) maximum

Line: AFFTA #7 floating maximum

Leader: 7-1/2 ft (2.3 m) minimum with yarn fly

Note: The candidate must demonstrate the high standard of performance expected of a Master Certified Instructor, which would instill confidence in students and other instructors. The candidate must attempt all Tasks, and fail no more than two.

Candidates will accomplish most Tasks quickly and easily on the first attempt, with good demonstration and, when requested, clear, concise explanations. Candidates will be requested to explain and demonstrate how they would teach some or all of the casts included in this performance test. Examiners have the right to ask candidates to expand or give greater detail on any Task, to confirm knowledge or skills.

As a guideline, loop sizes are expected to be no larger than approximately 3 feet in height, unless otherwise requested within a Task. Tailing loops are not acceptable at any time except when requested within a Task. All Tasks must be performed with the same rod and line. In the event of equipment failure other equipment may be used only with approval of the examiners. Considering wind, casting direction will be at the discretion of the candidate. Lengths of line to be cast are specified in each Task, include the leader, and measured from the caster to the fly. Marking the fly line to indicate specific distances required in the accuracy Tasks is prohibited. Hitting a target while executing a Task is required only when specifically requested in the Task. Off-shoulder casts may be made using cross-body or over-the-head technique.

Testing on water is strongly encouraged. Many of these Tasks, particularly the roll and Spey casts, often yield less than ideal results even with proper casting technique and form when testing is held on surfaces other than water. Candidates are expected to execute each Task with a technique suitable for casting on water, regardless of the actual testing surface. When testing is off water, examiners will make allowances if, for example, the leader does not straighten fully, or anchors are only partly effective.

Recommended scoring: P (pass) B (borderline) or F (fail). B (borderline) can be scored when a Task performance is uncertain as a P (pass) or F (fail). Two B scores is the equivalent to one F (1B=1/2 F). To highlight a level of P (pass) performance for debriefing purpose, P+ or P- can be noted.

The Master candidate must be a current FFF Certified Instructor (CI). The pre-requisite of being a current FFF Certified Instructor (CI) can be waived if the candidate has the equivalent certification from another recognized casting organization such as EFFA, GAIA, AAPGAI, APGAI Ireland, STANIC, etc. More information can be found at <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4950>.

\_\_\_\_ Task 1. Demonstrate your ability to vary the size of your casting loops, starting by casting wide loops, then making them increasingly narrow. Make two casts at each position for a total of six casts. Casting 45 to 50 feet (13.7 - 15.2m). No hauling allowed.

Expectations: Good, consistent loops front and back; slow to medium speed. On this task narrow loops are considered to be approximately 3 feet (.9m) or less in height; wide loops to be approximately 8 feet (2.4m) in height.

( \_\_\_ ) Tailing loops ( \_\_\_ ) Narrow loops too large ( \_\_\_ ) No variation in loop size

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 2. Demonstrate a series of casts progressing from the vertical position to the horizontal position. Make two false casts at the vertical and work down in a series of steps to the horizontal position. Each step must have at least two false casts. Casting approximately 40 feet (12.2m). No hauling allowed. Repeat from the opposite shoulder.

Expectations: Narrow loops front and back; loop size approximately 3 feet (.9m) or less in height; line speed adequate to keep loops in plane and aerialized.

( \_\_\_ ) Tailing Loops ( \_\_\_ ) Loops too large ( \_\_\_ ) Varying loop sizes ( \_\_\_ ) Inadequate line speed or poor timing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 3. Demonstrate controlled aerial mends, first with a series of wide slack waves and then with a series of narrow slack waves, beginning the Task while casting approximately 40 feet (12.2m). No hauling allowed.

Expectations: Wide slack waves should be approximately 6 feet (1.8m) in width; narrow waves approximately 3 feet (.9m) or narrower in width. Slow to medium speed. The fly may land closer than 40 feet (12.2m).

( \_\_\_ ) Tailing Loops ( \_\_\_ ) Waves very inconsistent; could not control wave width

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 4. Casting approximately 50 feet (15.2m) of line in successive casts, present the fly with aerial mends at 15 feet (4.6m), 25 feet (7.6m) and 35 feet (10.7m). Mend may be to the right or left at the examiner's option. No hauling allowed.

Expectations: Demonstrate good line control; slow to medium speed; loops 3 – 4 feet (.9 - 1.2m) in height. Lengths of the mended portion of the line should not exceed approximately 20 feet (6.1m) - approximately 10 feet (3m) on each side of the target

mend distances. Depths of the mends should be approximately 2 feet (.6m) to 4 feet (1.2m) for the 15 foot (4.6m) and 25 foot (7.6m) mend distances and approximately 1 foot (.3m) to 2 feet (.6m) for the 35 foot (10.7m) target mend distance. Other than the mended portion of the line, the remainder of the line should be relatively straight.

Tailing Loops  Unable to control placement of the mend

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Task 5. Using the same hand, demonstrate an overpowered and under-powered curve cast with the fly landing approximately 30 feet (9.1m) from the caster. No hauling allowed.

Expectations: Line and/or leader should land in a distinct curve. Well-defined loops approximately 3 feet (.9m) or less in height prior to the curve. The leader and/or line should land curved around a target approximately 30 feet (9.1m) from the caster. Curve casts are made by rod motion prior to loop formation; they are not aerial mends. We expect no pull-backs or other accentuating movements.

Tailing loops  Line/leader not landing in a curve  Aerial mend instead of a curve

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Task 6. Demonstrate a roll cast in which the leader straightens completely at approximately 50 feet (15.2m). Allowances will be made if casting on grass. The candidate may use an artificial anchor device on the tip end of the leader if on grass, or use a grass leader. Repeat from the opposite shoulder. No hauling allowed.

Expectations: The back loop should be established by slowly dragging the line into position without the fly leaving the surface. The back loop may have rearward momentum at the time the forward cast is begun. The back loop shall not exceed one rod length. Consistent loops with the top of the loops no higher than the caster's head.

Tailing loops  Leader did not fully straighten  Loops too large  
 Thrown back loop or Switch Cast

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Task 7. Demonstrate a Switch Cast using a single haul, shooting line to achieve a distance of 55 feet (16.8m) or more. Allowances will be made if casting on grass. A grass leader may be used at the casters option.

Expectations: The cast must be executed in a smooth manner; the lift must aerialize the line before it repositions to the anchor placement; the D-loop must be dynamic and demonstrate proper alignment with the forward cast. Consistent loops with the top of the loop no higher than the caster's head.

(\_\_\_) No Lift -- D-loop not aerialized -- dragged line into position (\_\_\_) Anchor piled or no anchor formed (\_\_\_) D-loop not in plane with forward cast (\_\_\_) Did not haul (forward cast) (\_\_\_) Did not shoot line (\_\_\_) Did not achieve minimum distance (\_\_\_) Loops too big (\_\_\_) Tailing loop (\_\_\_) Leader did not fully straighten (on water)

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 8. Explain and demonstrate a Single Spey cast to approximately 50 feet (15.2m) with a minimum change of direction of 45 degrees. Allowances will be made if casting on grass -- the candidate may opt to use a grass leader. Hauling allowed.

Expectations: The candidate's explanation shall include how the cast is performed, noting lift, anchor placement and D-loop, and when and where this cast would be used including its practical use, wind direction and bank position. The cast must be executed in a smooth manner with demonstration matching the explanation.

(\_\_\_) Explanation incomplete -- riverbank or wind direction not explained (\_\_\_) No lift -- line dragged to anchor position (\_\_\_) Poor anchor -- piled or L-shaped, skipped or missed (\_\_\_) Poorly formed D-Loop -- not aligned approximately 180 degrees from target or D-Loop drops on water behind caster(\_\_\_) Tailing loops

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 9. Explain and demonstrate a Double Spey cast to approximately 50 feet (15.2m) with a change of direction of approximately 90 degrees. Allowances will be made if casting on grass -- the candidate may opt to use a grass leader. Hauling allowed.

Expectations: The candidate's explanation shall include how the cast is performed, noting lift, anchor placement and D-loop, and when and where this cast would be used including its practical use, wind direction and bank position. The cast must be executed in a smooth manner with demonstration matching the explanation.

(\_\_\_) Explanation incomplete -- riverbank or wind direction not explained (\_\_\_) No lift -- line dragged to anchor position (\_\_\_) Poor anchor -- L-shaped, skipped, or missed (\_\_\_) Poorly formed D-loop -- not aligned 180-degrees from target or D-loop drops on water behind caster (\_\_\_) Tailing loops

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 10. Beginning the series with fly in hand, present the fly to targets at 40 feet (12.2m), 30 feet (9.1m), and 50 feet (15.2m), in that order. False cast between targets, extending or retrieving line in the air. Three consecutive attempts per target are allowed, false casting between deliveries. If a target is missed, strip in line to the next nearest target or back to 20 feet (6.1m), before attempting another lay-down. No hauling allowed. Repeat over the opposite shoulder. Allowances will be made for adverse conditions.

Expectations: The objective is to demonstrate reasonable accuracy, as judged by the examiners, with superior loop control and line handling skills. Consistent narrow loops, front and back. Narrow loops are considered to be 3 to 4 feet (.9 - 1.2m) in height.

Tailing loops  Inconsistent loops (loop size varying significantly)  
 Poor Accuracy

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 11. Demonstrate continuous double hauling while casting approximately 40 feet (12.2m). Continue double hauling while extending line to approximately 60 feet (18.3m).

Expectations: Smooth continuous hauling producing consistent loops at a slow to medium speed throughout the range of approximately 40 to 60 feet (12.2 - 18.3m).

Hauls erratic or abrupt (bouncing the rod tip)  Tailing loops  Haul timing incorrect  
 Slack line on the give-back

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 12. Demonstrate a cast at a minimum distance of 85 feet (26m). The fly must land beyond the tip of the fly line. Hauling permitted.

Expectations: Smooth casting and hauling. Consistent loops front and back. No tailing loops. The caster should make this look easy -- without appearing to struggle to achieve the distance.

Distance not achieved within three attempts  Tailing loops  Loops not similar front to back

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 13. First, explain and demonstrate a saltwater quick cast from a flats skiff. Begin by explaining the purpose of the cast. Address all steps in line preparation and executing the cast and include every step in the process. End by presenting the fly at a minimum distance of 60 feet (18.3m) with no more than 3 false casts. Secondly, explain and demonstrate the line handling challenge that an angler faces when wading an ocean flat. Hauling required.

Expectations: The explanations must match the demonstrations and be focused at students/anglers who have never fished from a skiff. The demonstrations should exhibit good line control with consistent loops after the initial pickup. Line and leader should straighten completely. No tailing loops.

Poor loop control  Tailing loops  Demonstration did not match explanation  Explanation incomplete or unclear  Line prep demonstration/explanation incomplete

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 14. Explain and demonstrate the casting technique used to cast a heavily weighted fly or sinking-tip line. Hauling permitted.

Expectations: Explain why the casting technique differs from casting full-floating lines and un-weighted flies and explain how the technique differs. Include the following considerations in the explanation: line pickup, types of casts appropriate, loop size and speed, false casting, and shooting line. The demonstration must match the explanation and should be focused at the student level.

() Explanation unclear or incomplete () Demonstration did not match explanation ()  
Tailing loops

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 15. Explain and demonstrate change-of-direction casts, e.g., from a downstream position to an upstream position.

Expectations: The demonstration shall include a minimum of four different casts to change direction; however, only one spey cast may be used. The change of direction should be significant -- 45 degrees or more - but is not restricted to a single cast. The candidate shall explain why the demonstrated techniques were used and their advantages and disadvantages. The demonstration must match the explanation and be focused at the student level

() Explanation unclear or incomplete () Explanation did not match demonstration ()  
Change of direction less than 45 degrees () Poor loop control and/or tailing loops

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 16. Explain and demonstrate casting with a strong head wind, tail wind and wind from either side. Hauling permitted.

Expectations: The problem presented by each wind direction should be explained. At least one cast to overcome the wind must be demonstrated for a head wind and back wind and wind into the non-casting side. At least four casts must be demonstrated for wind into the casting side. The explanation should include why the cast was selected (advantages), how the cast should be made, and the characteristics of the cast, e.g., loop size/shape, rod plane, line speed, trajectory, etc. The demonstration must match the explanation and be focused at the student level.

() Explanation did not match demonstration () Characteristics of the cast not explained  
() Explanation unclear or incomplete () Tailing loops

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 17. Explain and demonstrate how to cast loops with parallel legs, explaining why loop legs get out of parallel and why this is bad.

Expectations: The explanation and demonstration should include the two common causes for loops with non-parallel legs in the vertical plane and the most common cause for loop legs being out of parallel in the horizontal plane. The demonstration must match the explanation; be done slowly; and be focused at the student level.

(\_\_ ) Explanation unclear or incomplete (\_\_ ) Demonstration did not match explanation

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 18. Explain, demonstrate and teach, at a minimum, the following causes and corrections for tailing loops on the forward cast. Specifically demonstrate: (1) Insufficient rod arc, with no creep; (2) Insufficient rod arc, due to creep; and (3) correct rod arc, power applied abruptly. Casting distance - approximately 40 feet (12.2m) . No hauling allowed. Examiners have the option of requiring a tailing loop on the back cast.

Expectations: Good, consistent loops front and back prior to tailing; slow/medium speed. Concise explanations must match the demonstration.

(\_\_ ) Unable to demonstrate specific Task (\_\_ ) Explanation unclear or incomplete (\_\_ ) Explanation did not match demonstration

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Task 19. Demonstrate casting with the non-dominant hand. First, demonstrate casting in the vertical plane at a distance of approximately 40 feet (12.2m) with loops approximately 3 feet (.9m) in height. Then, demonstrate a normal roll cast with loops no higher than the caster's head at a distance of approximately 40 feet (12.2m). No hauling allowed.

Expectations: A simple demonstration of basic proficiency with the non-dominant hand. No tailing loops.

(\_\_ ) Tailing loops

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Passed Oral and Performance exam;**  
**tested by** \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_

In all phases of this test it must be demonstrated to the examiners that the highest level of proficiency in flycasting, line handling and teaching skills are evident.

We recommend the below listed nominee be certified as a Master Fly Casting Instructor.

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Country, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Examiner #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Examiner #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Observer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment method:    Cash    Check    Credit Card    Money Order

Credit Card Type: Visa    Mastercard    Discover    American Express

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Security Code on Back of Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return This Form To:

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