

# Accuracy in all situations

Accuracy means placing the fly where you intend for it to go. The smaller the target area, the smaller the margin of error, and the more crucial your accuracy becomes. Being accurate requires at least two things, 1<sup>st</sup> that you aim your cast to determine the correct trajectory and 2<sup>nd</sup> that you determine the correct release point for your loop to deliver your fly to the intended target area. Aiming your cast takes some planning and practice.

Aiming your cast has two components which represent 2 straight lines. The eye-target line and the hand target line. The eye-target line is formed by using your dominant eye to "sight" your cast, determining a straight line from your eye toward your target. The eye-target line determines the shortest straight line distance to the target. Your hand-target line is also a straight line. This line runs from your rod hand or thumb pad directly toward the target.

These are essentially 2 imaginary straight lines that you need to draw when aiming your cast. It is sort of like a V, tipped on its side < with the pointy end of the V representing the target area. One leg of the V is your eye-target line. The other leg is the hand - target lines. The wider the base or separation of the two legs of the V, the more difficult it is to be accurate. Also, as the distance to the target increases, the longer the legs of the V, again, the more difficult it is to be accurate.

The hand-target line must intersect the eye-target line **at the target**, or you will not be accurate, you will overshoot, be short, or have slice right or left. The closer these two lines are, the easier it is to be accurate. This is why you want to stand with your shoulder square to the target and keep your rod hand close to the eye you are using for your eye-target line.

The release point is the same, regardless of the distance to target. The release point is your power snap or wrist/hand action. This action is enacted in the final part of the acceleration and stopping of the rod. This action begins when the rod shaft is 90 degrees from the target ends 45 degrees from the target. You can use your thumb pad as an aiming device. When the thumb pad is perpendicular to or 90 degrees from your target (along the straight line trajectory toward your target), you enact the power snap which stops the rod, releasing the stored energy in your fly rod, and forms the loop to deliver your fly to your target.

This all occurs on a straight line. Your rod hand must move on a straight line toward your target. The power snap occurs when your rod hand is at 90 degrees (along a straight line toward your target).

Accuracy rarely happens accidentally. It takes planning and practice. Don't wait for the critical times. Go out on a field and practice with targets both large and small. As you improve, make small targets and practice to hit left right and center. Then practice in windy conditions. This will help you be prepared for those crucial casts.

Use these concepts and the accuracy position - square to target, rod hand close to eye and your accuracy will improve.