



That's right. Some days, you'll cast a thousand times without a bite. Other days ... ah, those other days, when you can't cast fast enough for the thousands of fish ready to swallow the hook! Here's how to cast:

Set the drag on your reel - this provides resistance to tire the fish without stretching your line to the breaking point.

Look behind you and to the side for trees, bushes and other anglers. Make sure the hook isn't caught on anything or that the line isn't tangled.

Bring the rod back or to the side.

With a closed reel, press and hold the reel's release button. With an open reel, flip the bail open and hold the line up with your finger.

Bend your casting arm at the elbow and raise your forearm until your hand is almost level. As the rod bends, sweep it forward with your wrist and release the button or let the line slip from your finger. (If the lure landed close in front of you, you released the line or button too late. If the lure went straight up, you released the line or button too soon.)

Turn the reel crank forward until the button clicks or the bail flips to keep more line from coming out. Reel in your line until the bobber begins to move or until you've taken up the slack.

Watch the bobber. When it moves or goes under, you've got a strike!

Jerk the line to move the bobber and "set" the hook in the fish's mouth. (This is the point where angling ceases to be a sport and becomes art. Knowing when to set the hook requires the patience of Michelangelo painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.) Set the hook quickly for small panfish; larger fish need to nibble a bit before you tug.