

## What is the Hauling Move?

The hauling move is pulling the (tight) line being cast with the line-hand during the stroke—backcast, forward, or both. Just pulling on the line, e.g., in stripping in line, retrieving a fly or fighting a fish is not a haul.

### Why? To speed up the line/loop by

- Rotating the line faster around the tip guide – pulley effect, and
- Bending the rod more during the casting stroke – bending effect

### Uses

- Increase distance
- Contend with resistance (wind, heavy line, and flies)
- Reduce the effort required of the rod hand
- Smooth out rod path and help shape the loop

### Variations

- **Single haul**—pull during the back or the forward stroke
- **Double haul**—pull during both strokes with return moves by the line hand during all but the last (delivery) stroke

### Haul Elements

Rod hand static, otherwise synchronized to move with the rod hand.

- Pinch to hold the line (line hand)
- Position line and rod hand together
- **Start the pull as the rod hand starts the stroke**
- **Accelerate the pull to a stop as the rod hand moves through the stroke**
- Return the line back to the rod hand (a.k.a feedback, give-back, follow, other names)
- Repeat the cycle with the opposite stroke (double haul)
- Stop and release the line to deliver the fly with the rod hand

## Phases (Steps) in an Effective Haul

### Align

- Remove slack to get ready for the stroke and align the rod to the target
- Align the hands, rod, and line pointing at the target
- Bring the line hand close - a few inches apart - and a little below the rod hand

### Stroke (pull and stop)

- Start the stroke (back or forward) with the hands together.
- Pull the line with the line hand in the opposite direction of the rod hand path. Mimic the acceleration of the rod hand with the pull in the opposite direction.
- Stop the rod and the line hand together at the point you want to launch the loop. The line and rod hand will be separated by the length of the pull at this point.

### Stroke (return)

- As the loop unrolls, return the line hand still holding the line to the starting position close to the rod hand for the start the next stroke. This is called “following” the line back toward the bottom guide on the rod.

## Common Problems and Hauling Faults

**Tip:** Check the issue with- and without hauling through the full casting cycle (pickup, backcast, forward cast, and laydown). Make sure that the problem is being caused by hauling and issues with the basic rod hand stroke.

### Alignment phase

- Starting the stroke and haul before slack has been removed
- Starting the haul with the line hand too far—vertically or horizontally—from the rod hand (the stroke (pull and stop) phase)
- Anchoring the line hand to the hip and moving it through the stroke—in effect sliding the rod guides along the line with limited effect on rod bend and line speed
- Hauling before the rod hand starts moving
- Jerking or bouncing the haul movement can create a tailing loop
- Making the haul too short relative to the rod hand stroke by stopping early can create a tailing loop
- Hauling against the stripping (bottom) guide rather than the rod tip
- Hauling out of alignment with the rod path, usually out to the line hand side
- Dropping loose line beneath the rod hand path > tangles and stepping on the line during the stroke or line shoot
- Stopping the line hand at the end of the haul with a recoil, twist, or kink
- Stopping the line hand and releasing the line (shooting) before the end of the rod hand stop
- Dropping the line at the end of the haul—loose line slapping through the guides and droopy bottom (rod) leg in the loop as it unrolls

## Stroke – return phase

- Losing control of the line in the line hand
- Letting the line go after the pull phase and having to search with the line hand to find it for the return
- Forcing—rather than giving—the line back through the rod guide during the return
- Returning the line hand too quickly and/or above the rod/reel i.e., tangles of line around the reel and reel seat

## Habits of Effective Haulers

### Tips to Follow

1. Use the haul as a tool, but not a crutch. The foundation of casting is a solid basic stroke with the rod hand. Hauling assists but does not replace a good basic stroke movement.
2. Be a “smooth operator”—you can’t make hauls too smoothly.
3. Synchronize the line and rod hands. The two hands have to dance together and deliver signals in unison to the rod. Rod and line hands come back together at the end of each haul.
4. Minimize slack before the stroke starts. Hauls add speed as the rod loads and forms the loop, not before or after. If you are still pulling slack, you are not speeding up the loop.
5. Tension is a good thing. Good haulers “feel the peel” through the line throughout the haul.
6. Peel rather than yank the line. Treat the line like the string of a musical instrument. This ain’t a rodeo, and we’re not using a rope to flank the calf to ground to rope him. Despite the move being called a “haul”, it is most effectively performed with fingertip control and precision.
7. Vary the haul—start, stop, length, and speed to meet the objective and/or conditions. Avoid overhauling and under-hauling. Be a haul-doctor and use only the dose needed.
8. Move the line hand in a straight and narrow path. Minimize friction through guides backward and forward by concentrating on the pulley or spinning effect in the tip guide. To avoid an excessive sideways or downward pressure of the line hand on the rod, visualize hauling straight back from the rod-tip to the target.
9. Keep lines clean, conditioned, and stretched. Hauling does not work well when a gummy line refuses to slide through the guides easily.

### Situations for Using the Haul

- **Meeting the need for distance**—additional acceleration at the most effective part of the stroke
- **Smoothing the cast and sharpening the loop**—moderating jerky acceleration and reinforcing the rod stop (loop launch).
- **Dealing with injuries, disabilities, fatigue**—reducing strain on the rod hand
- **Supplementing the roll, oval, and other casting strokes**—providing help in loading the rod
- **Making up for limited backcast or overhead space**—developing line speed in limited stroke
- Accentuating presentation casts, e.g., curve casts, tuck casts, bounce casts—making sharper effects
- **Managing the influences of the wind**—keeping a tight line throughout the stroke against buffeting from all angles
- **Applying unequal power to different strokes**—for example a single haul to load the backcast deeply to ease the forward stroke needed to cast a short line or big fly
- **Introducing slack in presentation aerial mends**—“check haul”

### Resources for Learning to Make and Use the Haul

- [FFI Video: Jeff Wagner – Distance Casting](#)
- [Orvis: Pete Kutzer – Adding Distance to Your Cast](#)
- [Anglers All: Doug Andrew – How to Double Haul in 5 Minutes.](#)
- [Midcurrent: Joan Wulff – The Double Haul](#)

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