

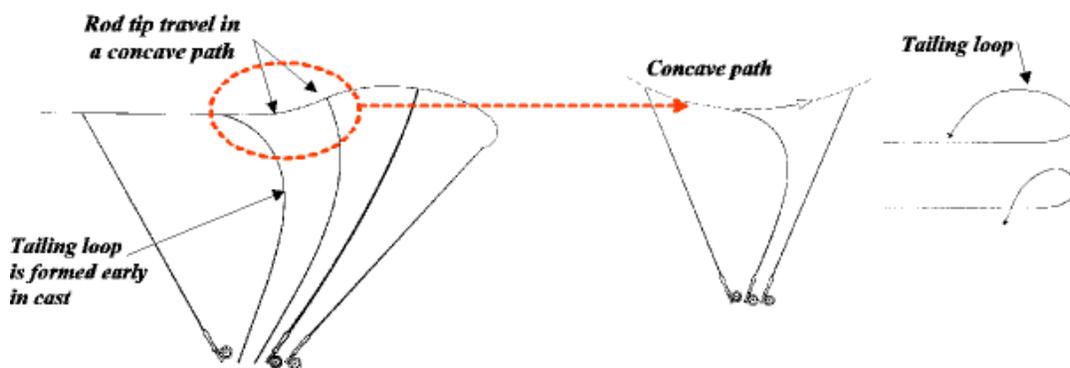
Can You Get Rid of Your Tailing Loop?

We continue to see many folks attending the AFFS while casting tailing loops and experiencing tangled leaders and fly lines. So I thought it would be a good idea to discuss this problem since it has been several years since I discussed the subject.

For the most part, all fly casters have been plagued by tailing loops at one time or another. Some casters have the problem with tailing loops and do not know it. While others have the problem but do not know what causes the tailing loops or how to fix them. In fact many fly fisherman believe the knots in their leader are caused by the wind and just accept that problem.

Well you say...So what? There are problems with tailing loops that include putting knots in the end of your leader, causing inaccurate casts or casts that collapse before reaching the target. Of course a knot in the tippet section of your leader reduces its strength by approximately 50%. So we can do without tailing loops.

Let's first define the tailing loop. A tailing loop is a crossed loop in the fly line that occurs as the line un-rolls during a forward or back-cast. The tailing loop is formed when the tip of the rod travels in a momentary concave path as shown in the diagram below:



Generally, although not always, tailing loops are formed when fly casters become too aggressive and accelerate their cast in a non-uniform fashion. In most cases these aggressive actions result in the wrist rotating early in the cast, followed by the forearm progressing with the rest of the forward cast or back-cast. This action causes the rod tip to accelerate quickly and then slow down. This, in turn, causes the rod tip to travel in a concave path and puts that signature or memory in the fly line as a crossed line or tailing loop. As the line un-rolls and reaches the leader of the line a knot will often be created at that time.

If you have problems with tailing loops, please visit with us at the Atlanta Fly Fishing School and we will fix the problem and your "wind knots" will go away.

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