



Mend, Drift, Repeat

Fishing from a boat requires constant line maintenance in order to create those nice long, natural-looking, drag-free drifts. The varying speeds of the water across the surface of the river will constantly seek to grab your fly line, skate your flies through the water, and off the menu of discerning trout. To combat this, you will need to learn to mend your fly line. By lifting the tip of your rod and fly line off the water, you break the grip of the surface tension with the water. Following this, quickly push the tip of your rod downstream along with a length of your fly line before lowering it back to the water. A good mend buys you time; time for your flies and line to play through the water for another 30-40 yards before mending again or recasting your line to the next promising line.

We hope to see you on the river this summer! Keep these three tips in mind as you float, and if you happen to drift by the team from Ascent Fly Fishing, make sure to say hello so that we can share some flies or a beer with you!



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Fly of the Month · February 2021



2021 is the year the team at Ascent Fly Fishing is dedicating to float fish as often as possible and we invite you to join us! There is no better way to fish over 10 miles of water in a day, get away from the crowds, and have a shot at some truly epic fish than to hop in a drift boat or fishing raft! When the opportunity arises, we want to help you maximize your time and set yourself up for success. Here are three tips to keep in mind that will enable you to float fish like a pro this season!



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FLY OF THE MONTH • Neon Nightmare • Size 20 - 24

If trout could wake up in a cold sweat, the Neon Nightmare would be the cause of many restless nights in the river! The fluorescent colors and UV coating of this pattern help it to stand out from every other fly pattern in the shop and every other midge larva in the river. The effectiveness of this pattern cannot be denied, and while it is an undoubtedly a nightmare for trout, it is the stuff of good dreams for the angler!



Dry/Wet: Wet | **Fly Category:** Attractor Pattern

Family: Midges & Chironomids | **Species:** N/A | **Life Stage:** Larva

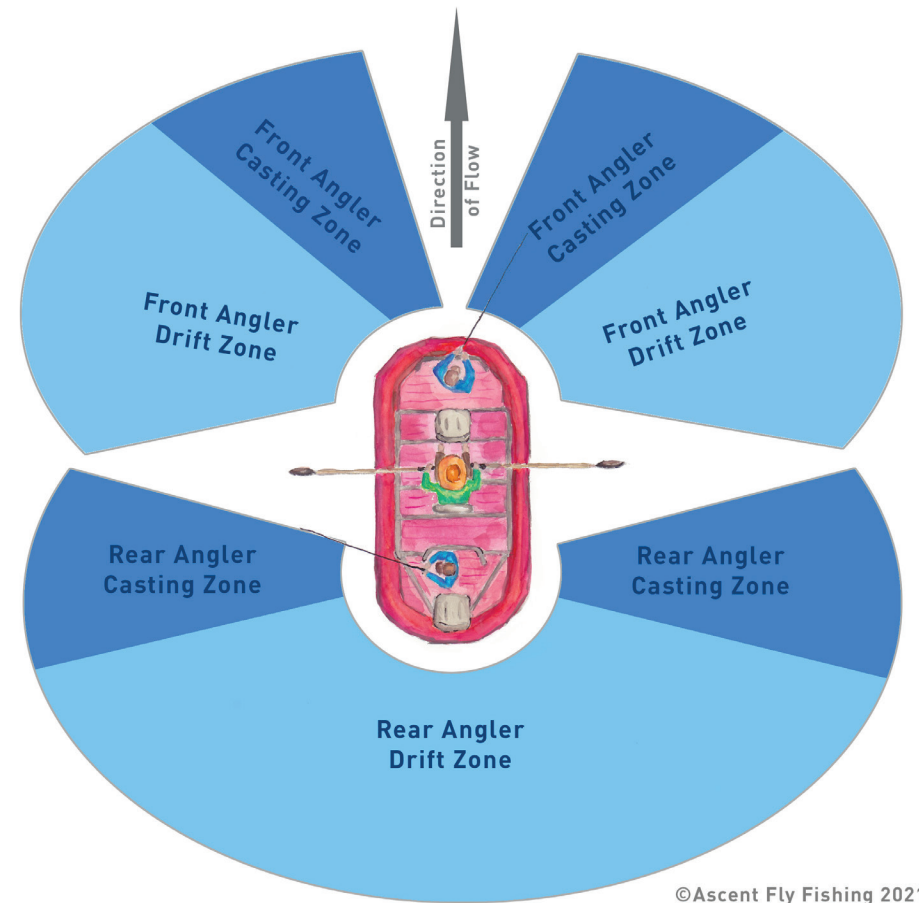
3 Tips to Help You Float Fish Like A Pro

By: Peter Stitcher

Stay in Your Lane

In the moving world of drift fishing, there is an endless supply of fishy-looking water, constantly floating into view around each corner and one of the greatest things about fishing from a boat is that you have the opportunity to touch all of it! Gone are the overhanging branches threatening to grab your back casts, and 50 to 100-yard drag-free drifts are the norm as you float along with the current. While fishing from a raft or drift boat opens the river in a whole new way, you still need to share the water with the other anglers in your boat, and this basic float fishing rule will help you from crossing lines and running afoul of your fishing partners.

In order to get the longest drift and maximize their chance at hooking up each drift, the angler in the front of the boat will want to cast their line between 1 and 2 o'clock or 10 and 11 o'clock and then allow their rig to float almost parallel with the oar blades before picking it up and recasting. For the angler in the rear of the boat, their domain starts parallel with the tip of the oar blades through the entire sweep of water behind the boat. When you *Stay in Your Lane* everyone will remain happy, you'll spend less time untangling lines, and more time netting fish into the boat!



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Line Up Your Shots

While fishing from a drift boat or raft gives the angler unparalleled access to miles of river in a day, 90% of trout only utilize about 10% of the river so you are going to need to work with the rower to line up your drifts. Fishing from a boat requires teamwork. The rower should keep their eye downriver to choose a safe line while also getting the anglers within range and calling out the best holding water. The anglers in turn, should keep their heads on a swivel, spending most of their time watching their rigs and adjusting their drifts, but casting periodic glances downstream to anticipate and line up their next cast. You only get one shot when fishing from a boat so look ahead and *Line Up Your Shots!*

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