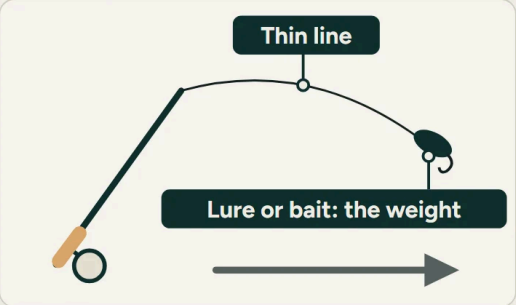
WHAT IS FLY FISHING?

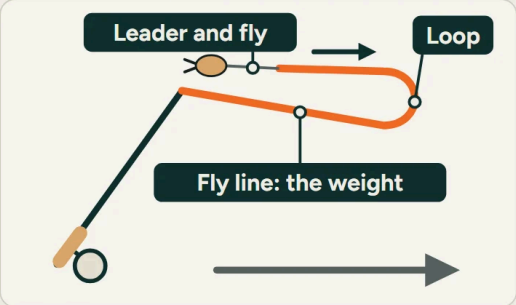
Fly fishing casts a nearly weightless fly, tied to look like an insect or a small fish, on a weighted line. Spin fishing uses a spinning reel: line comes off it as a lure (a man-made bait) or real bait flies out. In spin fishing, the weight of the lure or bait carries a thin line out. In fly fishing, the rod casts the weight of the fly line, and the line carries the fly.

Spin fishing



The weight of the lure or bait carries a thin line out.

Fly fishing



The rod casts the weight of the fly line. The line unrolls in a loop and carries the leader and fly. The top part of the line, with the fly on its end, rolls forward around the loop.

Where the weight is. A diagram, not to scale. Diagram: Fly Findr

WHAT EACH PART IS FOR REEL TO FLY

Rod	Casts the weight of the fly line. Its weight number names the line it is built to cast.
Reel	Stores the line. Its drag, a brake, slows the line when a hooked fish pulls it out. Its main job is not casting.
Backing	Thin line on the reel under the fly line: extra length if a hooked fish swims off fast and pulls out line.
Fly line	The weight you cast. It carries the leader and fly.
Leader	A length of line that gets thinner toward the fly. It passes the cast's energy along and sets the fly down gently.
Tippet	The thin last length of line. The fly is tied to it.
Fly	Tied to look like an insect or a small fish.

A FLY CAST IN FOUR MOMENTS

1. Lift	Rod tip (the thin end of the rod) low, some line out in front. Lift the line off the water.
2. Backcast	Speed the rod up backward and stop. The line unrolls behind you.
3. Pause	Let the line straighten behind you.
4. Forward cast	Speed the rod up forward and stop. The loop unrolls toward the target.

Which catches more? No study in Fly Findr's research shows either catches more trout. The one comparison is a single study of one set of waters in Mongolia, not a rule.