

HOW TO THROW A CASTNET



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Fishery Leaflet 609

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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By

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ABSTRACT

The pictorially described procedure in this leaflet will help anyone to master this art of fishing.

Since the publication of Fishery Leaflet 579 Castnets Constructed of Machine-Made Netting, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries has received numerous requests for instructions on how to throw a castnet. This publication supplies that information.

Although several methods may be used to throw a castnet efficiently, this leaflet describes the technique that is one of the simpler and more conventional ways to throw and properly spread the net. The procedure is not complicated but just takes practice and patience to master the art.

Small castnets (3-5 feet long) are easier to throw than larger ones. Handle the handline as in steps 2 and 3; then hold the net clear of the ground in front of you. Hold in the mouth that part of the leadline nearest to your body. Next, hold the leadline with your left hand at arm's length from the mouth (fig. 11). Throw the net as described in steps 7 and 8.

A close study of the following photographs and instructions should help teach anyone to throw a castnet.

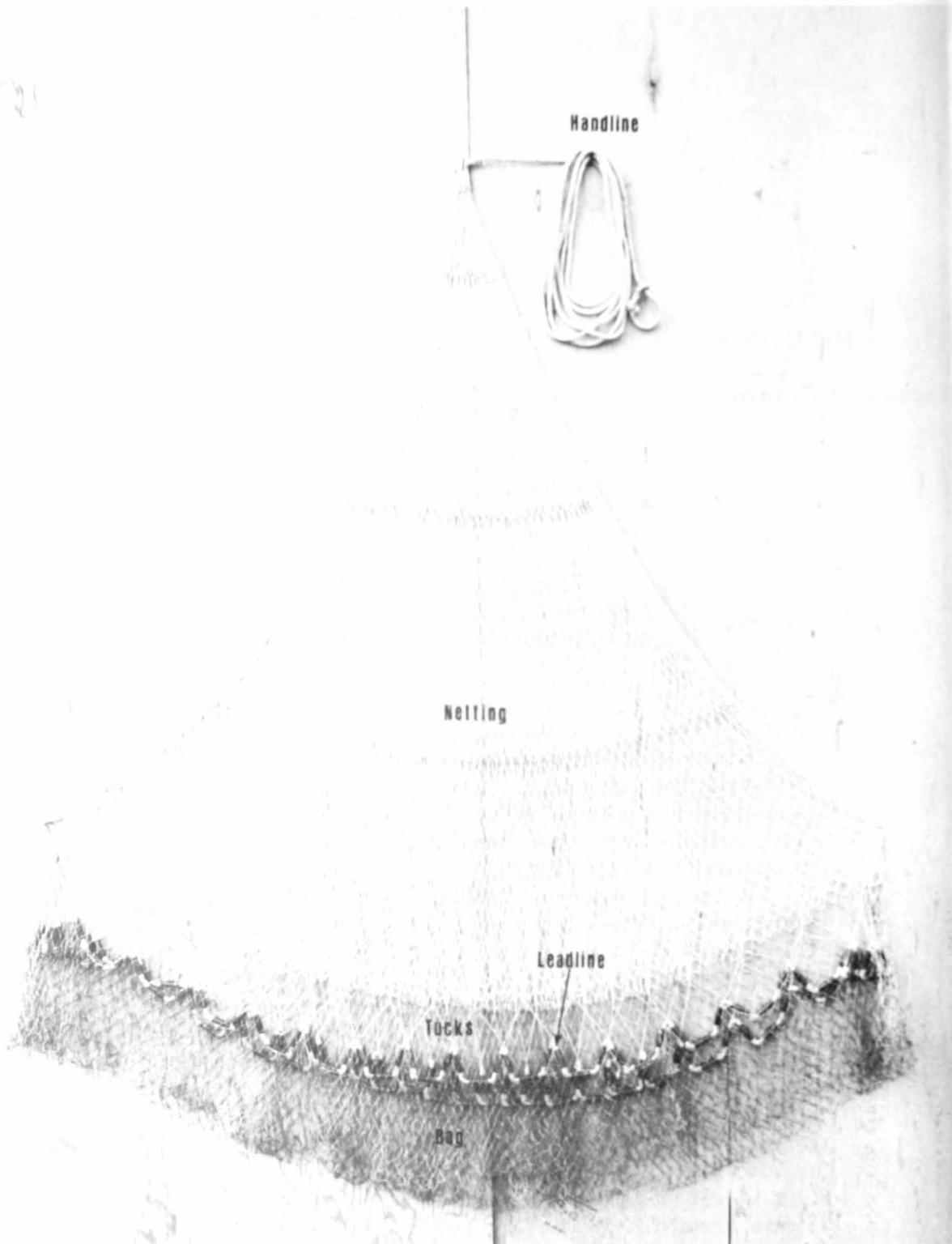


Figure 1.--Spanish castnet.

Step 1.--Learn the parts of a castnet.

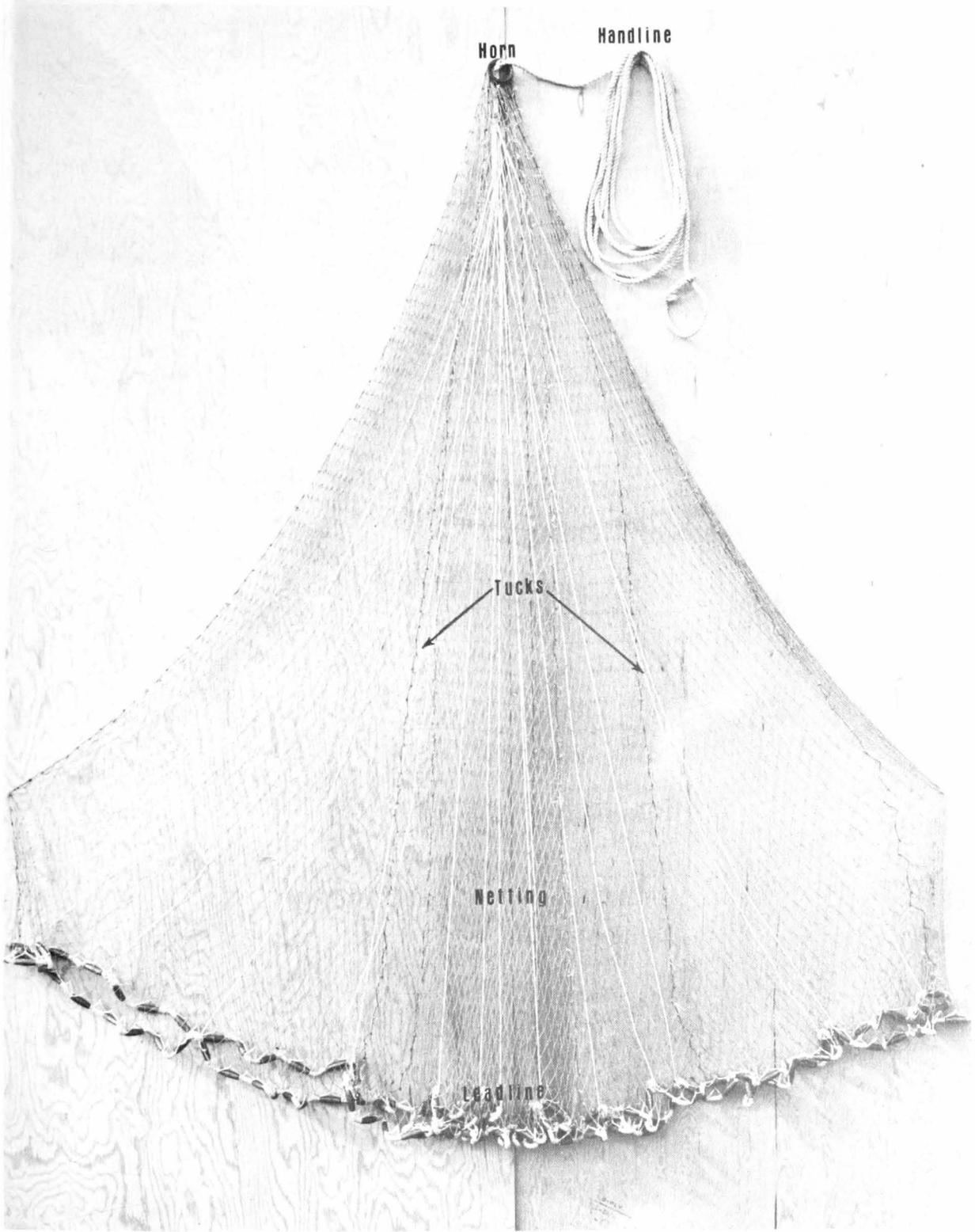


Figure 2.--English castnet.



Figure 3.--Handline looped around the right wrist.

Step. 2.--Loop the handline around the right wrist.

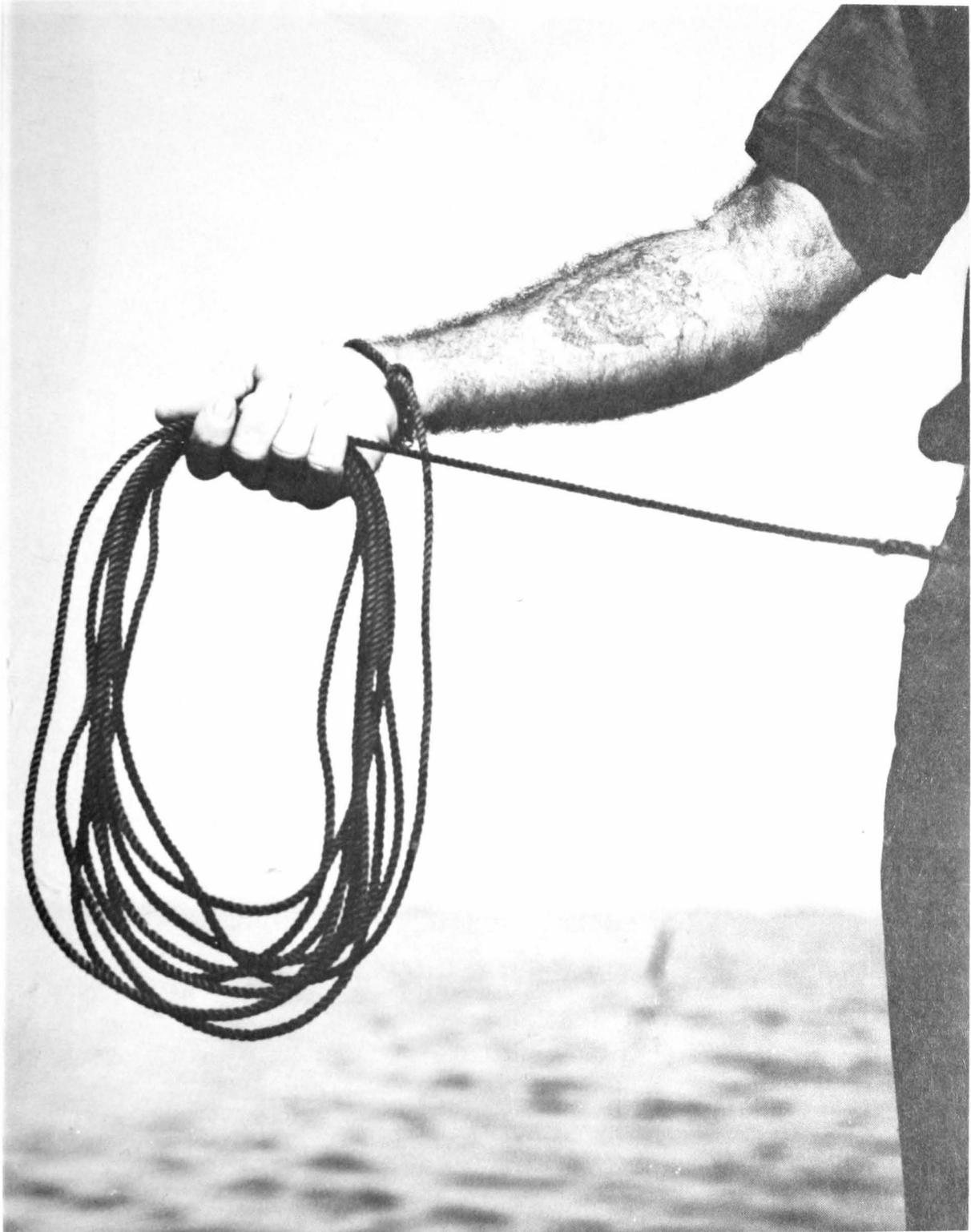


Figure 4.--Coiled handline held in the right hand.

Step 3.--Coil handline in a clockwise direction and hold coil in the right hand.



Figure 5.--Coiled netting held in the right hand.

Step 4.--Coil netting in a clockwise direction to within about 2-1/2 feet of the leadline and hold in the right hand.



Figure 6.--About one-third of the netting is held in the left hand.

Step 5.--Separate about one-third of the loose netting and hold it in the left hand.



Figure 7.--A part of the leadline is held in the mouth.

Step 6.--Place in the mouth the part of the leadline which is on a vertical line between the two hands and next to the body. The net is now ready to throw.

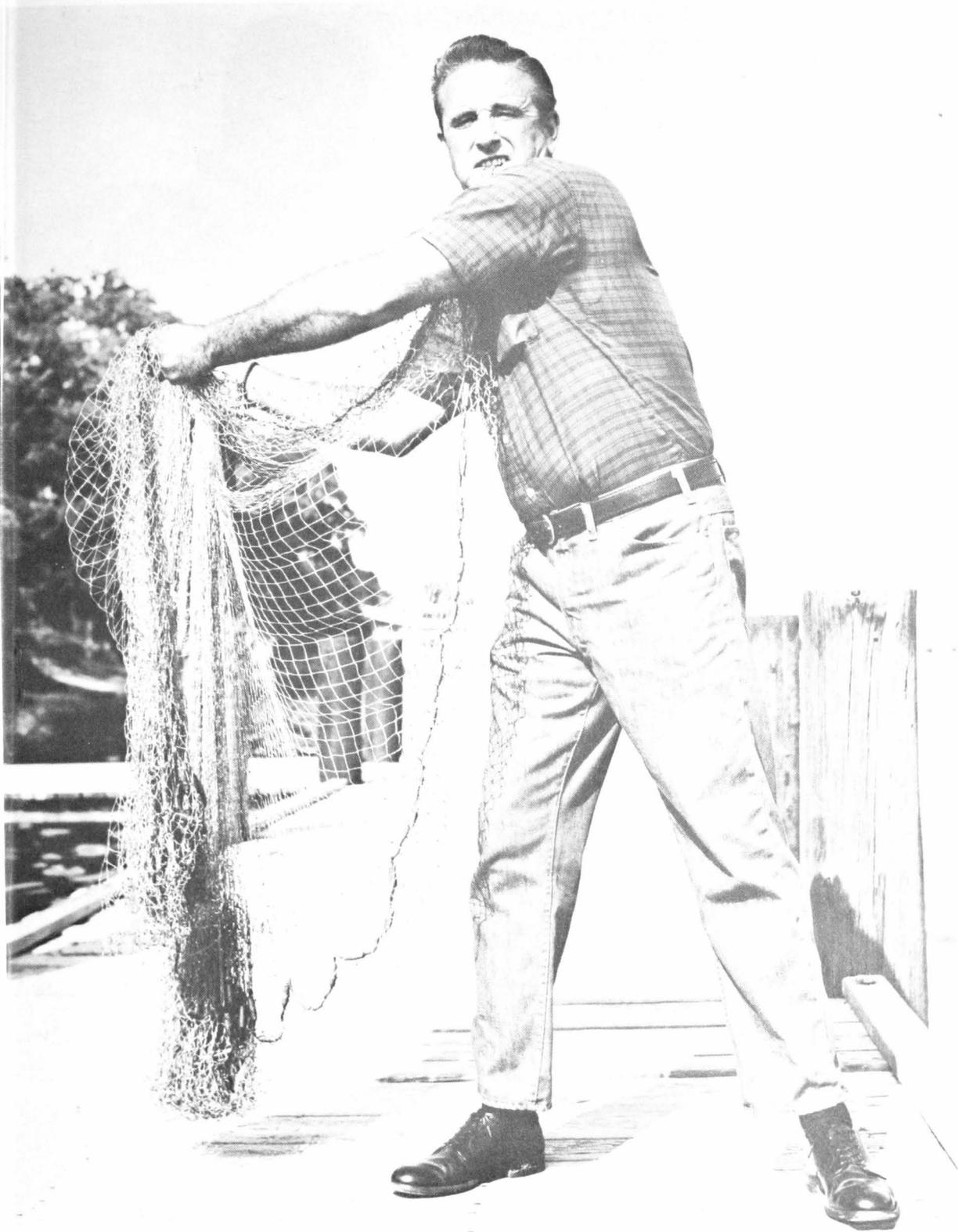


Figure 8.--Fisherman ready to throw the net.

Step 7.--Lean body to the right with arms extended as shown, keeping hands apart as in step 5.



Figure 9.--Fisherman releasing the net.

Step 8.--Swing the net around 180° and release it. This step requires practice because the net is released from the hands a moment before it is released from the mouth.



Figure 10.--Fisherman retrieving the net.

Step 9.--Haul in the net. Note the coiled handline in the right hand in preparation for the next cast.



Figure 11.--Preparing to throw a small castnet.

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