Casting to the Backyard Bass

**Time Frame:** 15-20 minutes  
**Age:** 7 and up  
**Group Size:** 20-25  
**Setting:** Indoors, outdoors  
**Staff:** 1-2  
**Use:** Out-of-class

**NYS Learning Standards:**  
MST-Section 4: Living Environment  
Students will: understand and apply scientific concepts, principles, and theories pertaining to  
the physical setting and living environment and recognize the historical development of  
ideas in science.  
- **Key Idea 7:** Human decisions and activities have had a profound impact on the  
  physical and living environment.

**Objectives:**  
✔ Students will be able to cast a fishing rod on their own  
✔ Students will be able to safely and properly cast a fishing rod

**Motivation:** Game

**Materials:** 2-3 fishing rods with plugs, Backyard Bass, fishing rod with hook and  
bobber/sinker (optional), 2-3 hula-hoops (optional)

**Pre-Lesson Procedures:**  
**Set up Casting Field (5 minutes)**  
1. Set up two casting fields with equal Backyard Bass.  
   a. Pick an open area.  
   b. Be wary of trees or other objects participants can snag.  
2. Use hula-hoops as markers for participants to stand in while casting.

**Lesson Procedures:**  
**Introduction (1-2 minutes)**  
1. Introduce self and I FISH NY program.  
2. Introduce activity.

**Casting to Backyard Bass (10-15 minutes)**  
1. Introduce the proper use of a fishing rod. For example, while using a spincasting  
   rod, demonstrate the following:  
   a. Thumb on the button – plug doesn’t move  
   b. Take thumb off the button – plug moves  
   c. One turn of the handle locks the fishing line  
   d. Don’t reel in all the way; so the plug doesn’t get stuck in the top guide  
2. Explain casting to the Backyard Bass.  
   a. Two lines to cast into fishing area
b. Demonstrate how to stand and cast with fishing rod
   i. Press and hold button
   ii. Look behind you
   iii. Bring rod back to 2 o’clock
   iv. Cast; take finger off of button when rod is at 11 o’clock
   v. Turn rod handle to lock line
3. Debrief casting; review steps.
4. Introduce rod safety with hook and bobber.
   a. Hold the fishing rod with one hand and a 2-finger pinch on leader line with the other hand.
   b. Always walk like this; for example when:
      i. Need new bait
      ii. Need new rod
      iii. Finished fishing
      iv. Moving fishing spots
   c. No running with rod.
   d. During the game, cast and retrieve; when fishing with bobber set up, cast and wait for fish to bite.
      i. Will know by bobber going under water
      ii. Hold line in fingers as another way to “know” that fish is biting

Closing (1-2 minutes)
1. Reminders:
   a. Proper way to cast
   b. Safety techniques for walking with a fishing pole
2. Invite questions.