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FishSmart Tackle:

Techniques and gear for releasing fish



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FishSmart Release Devices: Help keep fish in water while releasing or quickly gets them back into water. Keeps handling to minimum. Returns fish quickly to depth in deep water.

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The Challenge:

Many different species

Different swim bladder structures

Different responses to handling stress, temperature, exposure to air, dropping



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Triage in Difficult Fishing Situations

Dealing with many fish coming in at once.
Release tools that release fish faster very useful.





Release Methods for Dealing with Barotrauma

Venting body cavity (Puncture Method)

Recompressing fish using containers or hooks and weights (Hook and Drop/Zing, Fish Elevators)

Combination of both (Vent and Zing)

- Some vented fish still may float

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Venting: Puncturing Body Cavity with Needle



its co-founders Mr. Novak who recently passed away. Ever the fishery as a whole and will be a testament of Mr. Novak and commitment to fisheries conservation and sustainabilit



Venting Procedure
It is best to vent the fish as quickly as possible with a minimum of handling. If the fish is held on its side and the venting tool is inserted at a 45-degree angle approximately one to two inches into the fish's body. Expelling the swim bladder gases will allow the stomach to relax and release the gases—do not skewer the fish. The sound of the escaping gas is audible. Exert gentle pressure on the fish's abdomen to aid deflation. The fish's everted stomach will retract if necessary, revive it by holding the fish with the head pointed downward and moving water unassisted.



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Recompression: Hook and Drop (Zing)



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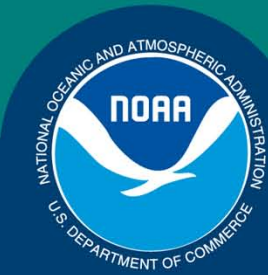


“Drop Shot” Recompression Device

- Pacific Island Fisheries Group

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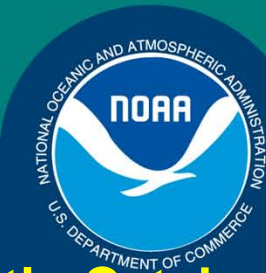


Shelton's Fish Descender (SFD)



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Blacktip Catch and Release Recompression Tool (Ace Calloway, West Marine)



Fish grippers

Cabela's fish gripper

Developed by angler Don Hester,
modified by Capt. Joe Ockenfels
(Oregon)



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The Seaqualizer

Jeffery Liederman, Patrick Brown, Jeffery Brown

**Roklees Fish
Descending Device**
Randy Hupp - Ecoleeser



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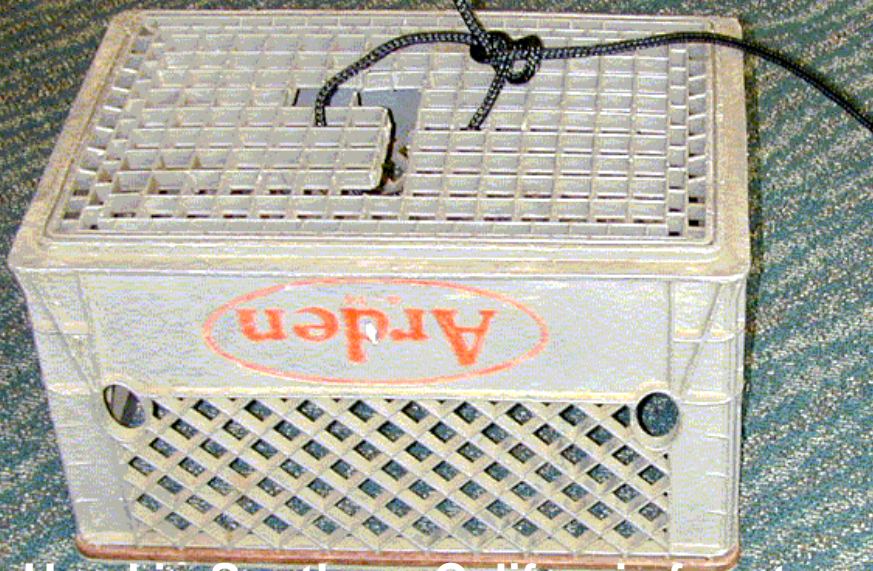


Containers or Fish Elevators



Inverted Dungeness Crab Ring

Milk Crate or Container Recompression Device



Used in Southern California for at least the past 15-20 Years

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Handling fish



Fish are often hard to handle, especially on rocking boats, so devices that help to handle fish without damaging them are very useful

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Fish grippers to restrain fish, covering eyes to calm down, helps in getting them back quickly with less damage, but even wet rags can cause damage

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Knotless Landing Nets:
reduces loss of slime, scales and
good way to hold but not drop fish

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Dehookers



Fish Shakers:

Mainly for lip hooked fish, reduces handling, and loss of slime and scales

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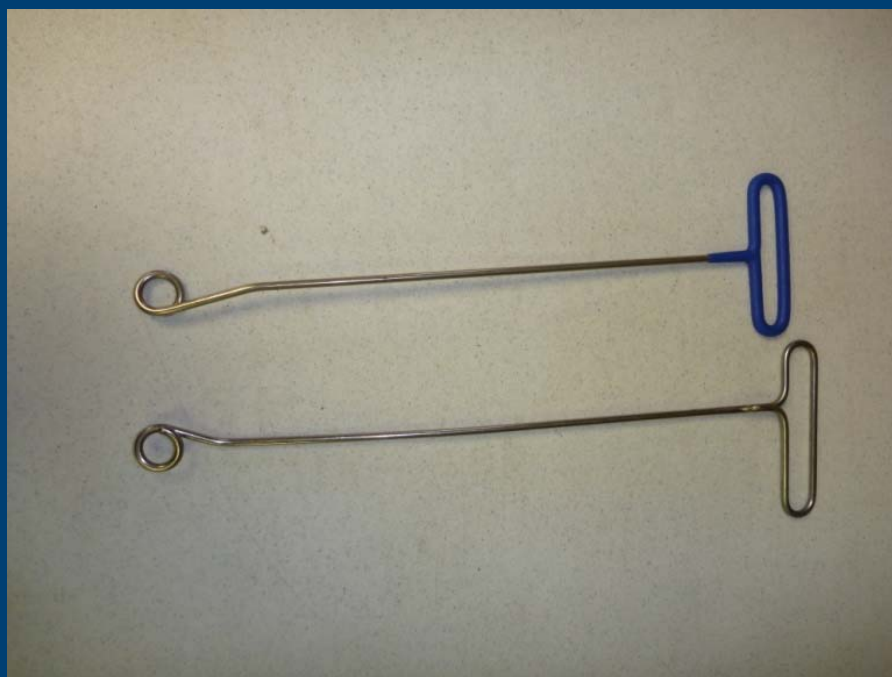


Tweezers, Pliers, Forceps, Etcetera
Especially helpful with circle hooks

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Deep hook releasers:
Sometimes necessary,
but usually better to leave hook in.

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Hooks



Barbless Hooks:
Less damage, quicker release



Deep Hooking:
Major source of mortality. Circle hooks can sometimes be effective in reducing numbers of gut hooked fish

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Finding the right tools for the right repair job
What tools works best for you in your type of fishing

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Remember that fishermen just wanna have fun catching fish! So tools should make it faster and easier to release fish and get back fishing.



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Save more Fish for the Future!