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# FishSmart Tackle:

Techniques and gear for releasing fish



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Stephen Theberge, IAP World Services, Inc

[stephen.theberge@noaa.gov](mailto:stephen.theberge@noaa.gov)

[fishhead51@gmail.com](mailto:fishhead51@gmail.com)

(503)-338-0420

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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. Even the fishery as a whole and will be a testament of Mr. Novak and commitment to fisheries conservation and sustainabilit



**Venting Procedure**

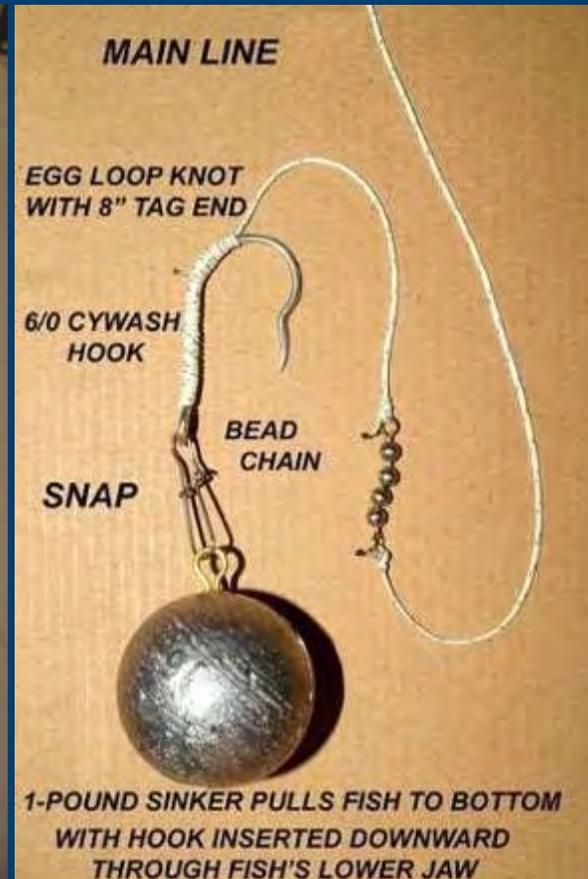
It is best to vent the fish as quickly as possible with a minimum of handling. If the fish is held in the venting tool, the swim bladder gases will allow the stomach to relax and insert the venting tool at a 45-degree angle approximately one to two inches into the fish's body. Expelling the swim bladder gases will allow the stomach to relax and insert the venting tool 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 insert the venting tool 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 insert the venting tool at a 45-degree angle approximately one to two inches into the fish's body.

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## Recompression: Hook and Drop (Zing)



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## Shelton's Fish Descender (SFD)



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## Blacktip Catch and Release Recompression Tool (Ace Calloway)



## 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 - Ecoleaser

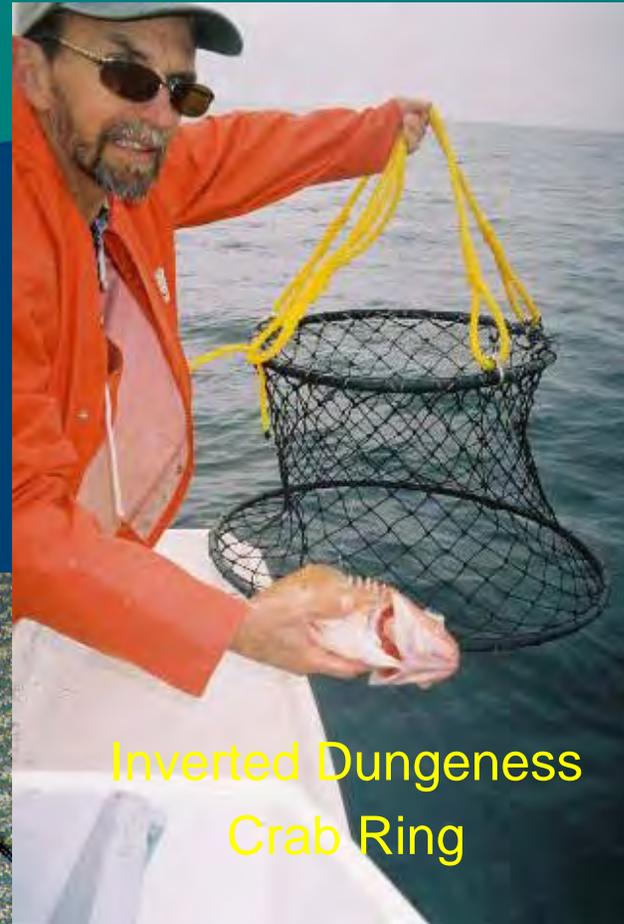


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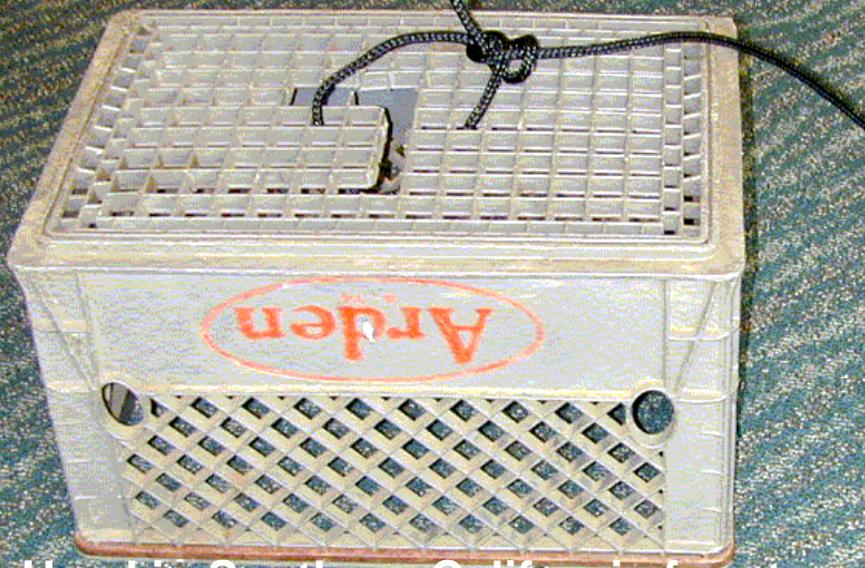


## Containers or Fish Elevators



Inverted Dungeness Crab Ring

## Milk Crate or Container Recompression Device

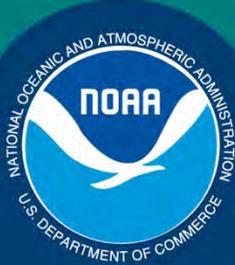


Used in Southern California for at least the past 15-20 Years

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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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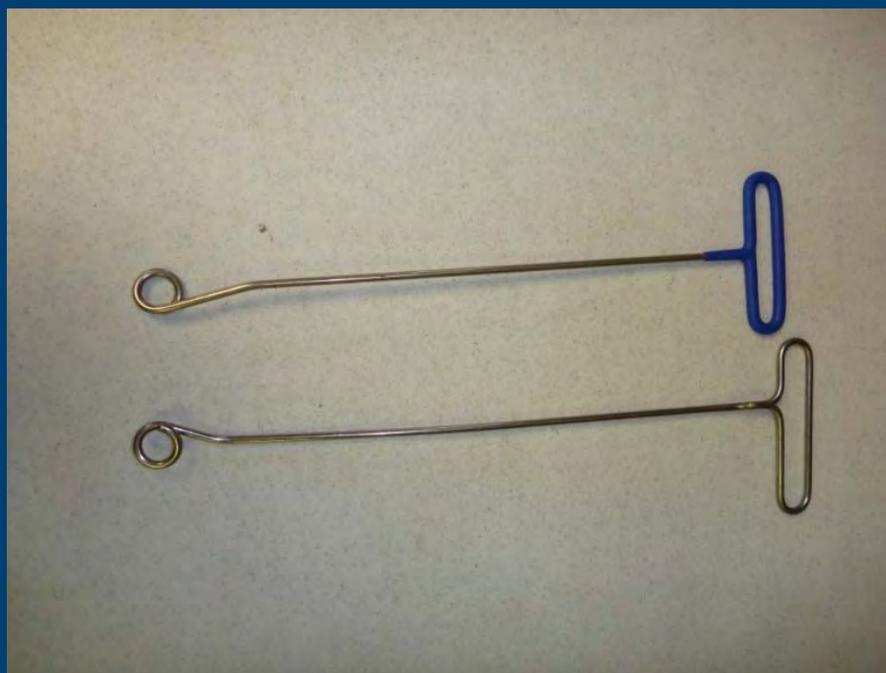


**Tweezers, Pliers, Forceps, Etcetera**  
Especially helpful with circle hooks

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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! So tools should make it easier to release fish.**



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