

## Commonly-Used Descending Devices

Note: These are examples of devices commonly used to descend fish. Other devices may be available. FishSmart [Best Practices](#) advise that when a fish is exhibiting signs of barotrauma that a descending device be used to return the fish to the depth from which they were caught or if that isn't possible as deep as possible (at least 60 feet).

**SeaQualizer** (pressurized mouth clamp)

<http://seaqualizer.com/>



The SeaQualizer is an innovative release tool designed to help fish recover from the effects of barotrauma. It was designed as a safer alternative to venting. This minimally invasive device returns fish safely to a preselected depth without need to reach or disturb the ocean bottom. Great for Red Snapper, Smaller Grouper, and Rockfish

**RokLees** by EcoLeeser (spring-release mouth clamp)

<http://www.ecoleeser.com/>



The RokLees is a fish descending device to properly release fish suffering from barotrauma. With the RokLees you unhook the fish and attach the open jaws of the RokLees to the lower jaw of the fish, which with the rubber tab on the outside protects the fish. Descending the fish to the appropriate depth, you then jerk up on the rod once or twice to release the fish.

## Shelton Fish Descender (inverted hook)

<http://www.sheltonproducts.com/SFD.html>

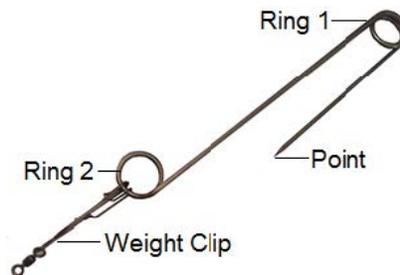
An S shaped wire hook clip attached inline approximately 1-3 feet above your standard fishing rig. The S shape loop hooks through the lower jaw of the fish and holds the fish securely while it is descended until the line is jerked up to allow the fish to swim free.



## Captain Roy's Fish Saver (inverted hook)

<http://www.fish saver device.com/>

An elongated barbless upside down hook, uses a weight to descend the fish and a retrieval line (such as parachute cord etc.) to bring the device back to the surface.



## **Blacktip Catch & Release Recompression Tool** (trigger release mouth clamp)

Available from West Marine

Used in conjunction with a handline, rod and reel combo or downrigger, the design utilizes a weight which holds the tool's spring-loaded jaws on the fish's mouth until it reaches the bottom. When the device hits the bottom, the spring tension is relieved and the jaws open to release the fish.



## **Inverted milk crate**/(fish elevator)

An inverted milk crate can be made at home or purchased from some tackle retailers. The open side of the milk crate is weighted and a rope attached to the opposite side panel so that when deployed in the water, the open side is facing downward. Fish are placed in the crate which is then descended to the appropriate depth. When fish are able to regain their balance, they can freely swim out from under the crate.

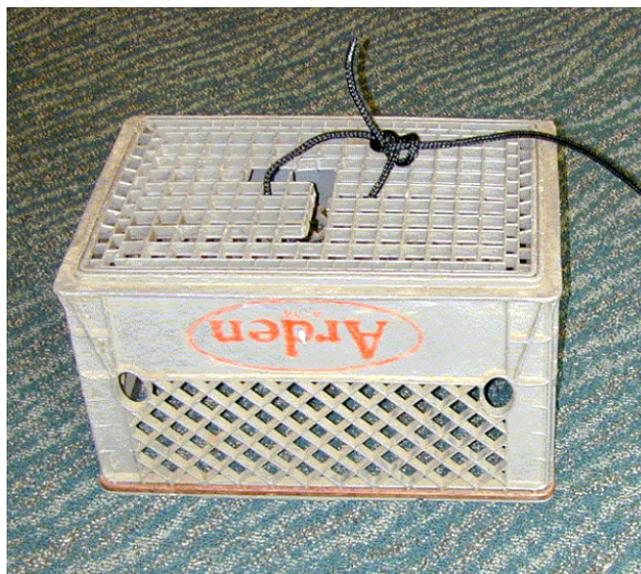


Photo courtesy of Steve Theberge