

Barotrauma and the use of venting and/or descending devices

TPWD- Used to engage in offshore trips to show anglers how to use descending devices, but have stopped after a study was published showing that venting does more harm than good. Zack Brown is the best contact person.

TX Sea Grant – Agents were handing out barotrauma devices.

FWC – Created a catch and release brochure that covers barotrauma and has a proper fish handling website and barotrauma video. They are currently conducting a citizen science program that is asking anglers to use descending devices so the agency can gather information on the barriers that prevent anglers from using the devices and to understand how to better encourage their use. It was noted that anglers need to learn when and how to properly use the devices. Additionally, each device has its benefits and downfalls, so anglers need to understand their options and choose what works best. Rich Abrams is the best contact person.

FL Sea Grant – Agents have taken a series of offshore trips with anglers to introduce them to descending gear. They completed a year-long project taking outdoor writers fishing and encouraging them to write articles on descending devices. Sea Grant has conducted an angler survey to gather an understanding of knowledge of barotrauma and the use of mitigating devices. They're also working with FWC to design a guide certification program that will include use of descending and venting tools. Agents have published papers on a variety of barotrauma related issues. Betty Staugler is the best contact person.

LDWF – Distributes a catch and release brochure and worked on building recompression tools. Jason Adriance is the best contact person.

AL Sea Grant – Gave away descending devices as a promotional item. Studies are being conducted and videos are being produced on the use of descending devices.

NOAA – Produced a video and brochure on catch and release practices and has funded research on decompression devices. Sean Meehan is the best contact person.