

For more information
on barotrauma & best
fishing practices, visit:

[www.wlf.la.gov/page/
barotrauma](http://www.wlf.la.gov/page/barotrauma)



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REQUIRED

VENTING TOOL OR DESCENDING DEVICE

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 13, 2022

Requirement applies to all fishermen
targeting reef fish in federal Gulf waters



www.wlf.la.gov

DESCEND Act requirements effective January 13, 2022



- WHAT:** Commercial, for-hire, and private recreational vessels fishing for reef fish species in Gulf of America federal waters are required to have a venting tool or descending device rigged and ready to use.
- DESCENDING DEVICE:** An instrument designed to release fish at catch depth. *Example: weighted hook, lip clamp, holding box to lower fish to optimal depth.*
- VENTING TOOL:** A sharpened, hollow instrument to penetrate fish's abdomen to release excess gas in fish's abdomen. *Example: hypodermic syringe with plunger removed.*
- WHY:** To improve the survivorship of released reef fish suffering from barotrauma.
- WHEN:** Only use when a fish shows signs of barotrauma (distended abdomen, bulging eyes, everted stomach, or bubbling under scales).