

# How To Vent a Fish

## A fish needs to be vented if...

- body is bloated
- eyes are bulging
- stomach is coming out of mouth
- intestines sticking out of anus



*Photo showing barotrauma - stomach sticking out of mouth*



*Barotrauma - intestines sticking out of anus*

## Five easy steps:

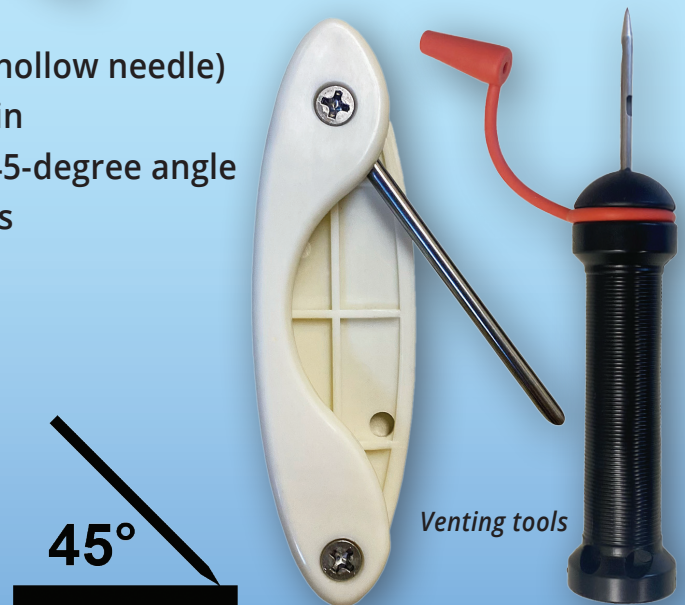
1. Place fish on a flat surface
2. Grab your venting tool (at least a 16-gauge hollow needle)
3. Find a spot 1-2 inches behind the pectoral fin
4. Remove a fish scale and insert needle at a 45-degree angle
5. Listen for air escaping and wait until it stops

## Don't...

- puncture/push organs back in
- vent the fish unless it is needed
- push the venting tool too deep

## Do...

- use wet hands/gloves
- return the fish to water quickly

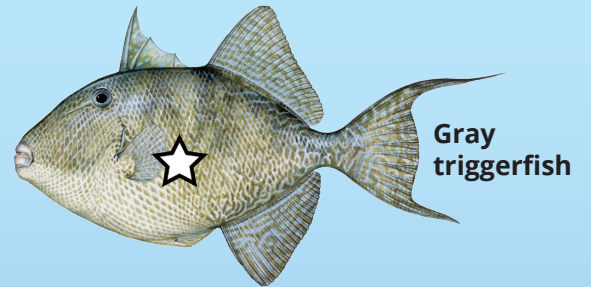
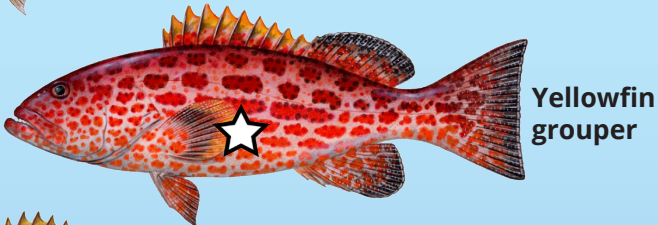
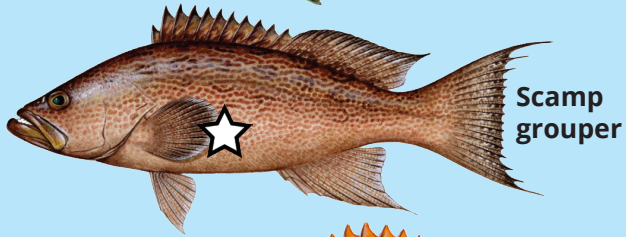
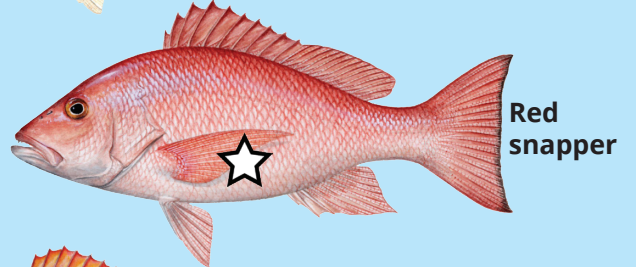
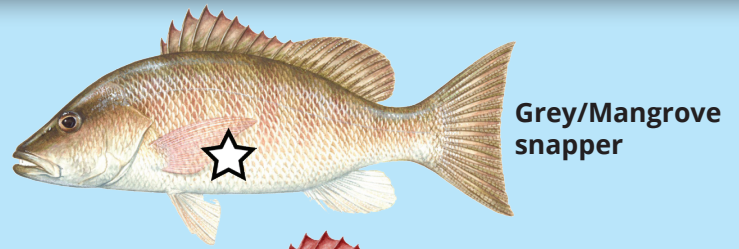
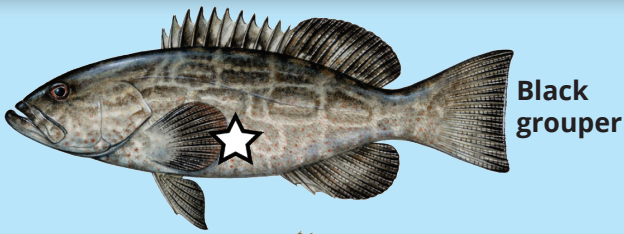


*Venting tools*



*Insert a venting tool at a 45-degree angle as shown*

# Commonly Vented Fishes



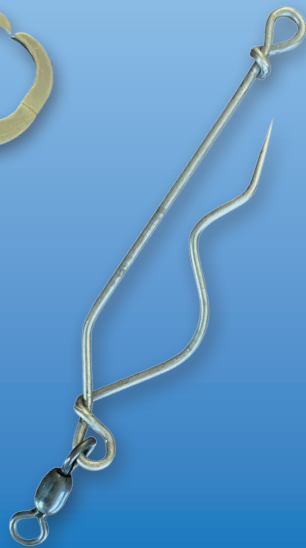
★ *Where to insert venting tool.  
On snappers, the pectoral fin must be lifted and insertion must be under a scale.*

*Illustrations by Diane Rome Peebles*

## Alternatives to Venting



Pressure release tool



Inverted hook

Descending devices are a great way to return fishes to depth without venting.

