Categories of FishSmart® Tackle
As Approved on May 22, 2014 by ASA’s FishSmart® Ad Hoc Committee

Definition: FishSmart® Tackle are devices that improve the survival of released fish

- **Dehooking Devices:** Dehooking devices, or dehookers, remove an embedded hook without allowing it to reengage in the fish. These devices should function in a manner whereby terminal tackle can be removed with minimal to no handling of the fish. Dehooking devices should be blunt with rounded edges, and constructed to allow the hook to be secured and the barb shielded without reengaging during the removal process.

- **Descending Devices:** Survival of fish caught in deep water can be dramatically improved if returned to the depth at which they are caught or, if this is not possible, as deep as anglers can get them. Descending devices should safely descend one or more fish and be practical from a usability standpoint..

- **Landing Gear:** Landing gear should allow the angler to bring the fish from the water to the point of release (i.e., onto shore, pier or boat) quickly, gently and with minimal damage to the fish. Such products can reduce overall handling time and prevent physical trauma to the fish, including preserving its protective coating.

- **Fish Grippers:** Devices that firmly grasp the fish’s lower jaw can improve anglers’ ability to safely restrain and handle fish. Using these devices can allow anglers to more quickly remove the hook and return the fish to the water and minimize handling of the fish.

- **Circle Hooks:** A circle hook is a fishing hook designed so that the point is turned perpendicular to the shank to form a circular shape. Research has found that circle hooks are more likely to hook a fish in the mouth rather than the gut, making the hook easier to remove and reducing harm to the fish. Circle hooks should be in-line, i.e., non-offset, as the greater the degree of offset, the greater the likelihood of deep hooking.