

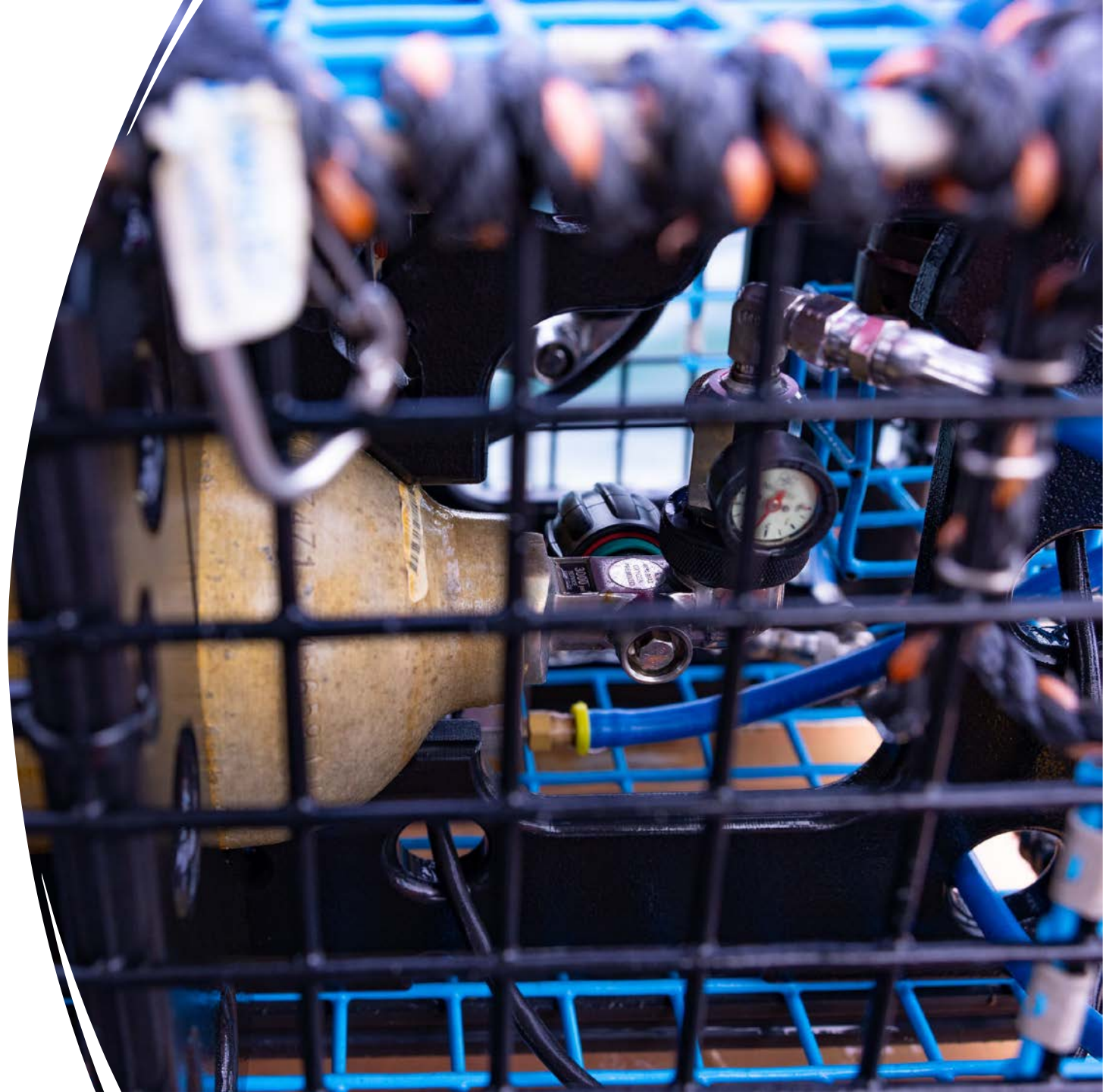
# SMELTS On-demand Fishing Gear

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Step by Step Guide 2024

Also see video instructions  
at [www.neaq.org/ropeless](http://www.neaq.org/ropeless) \*

*\*References to specific on-demand gear companies do not constitute endorsement, promotion, or recommendation of. We will be adding additional company-specific instructional information as it becomes available.*

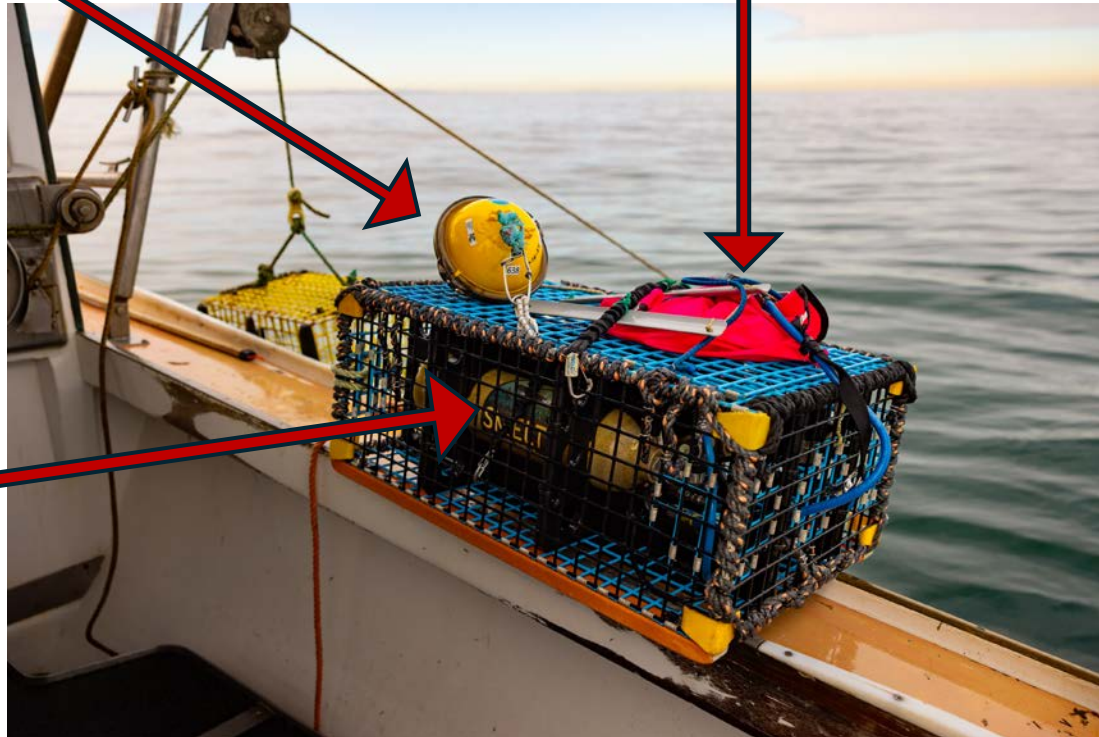


# SMELTS: Unit Components

**Kicker buoy** – attached with a tag line for ease of gaffing unit and hauling on to vessel. Without this, you can cause the air hose to tear away from the bag after multiple times gaffing it for hauling onto the vessel.

**Air tank** – inside unit with a mechanism for releasing air to inflate lift bag

**Lift bag\*** – inflates to bring unit to the surface when acoustic signal is sent. May be pink, orange, yellow, or another color that is easy to spot.



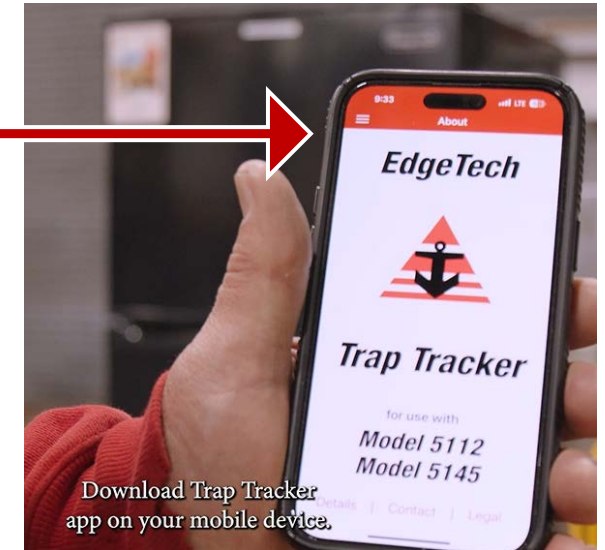
\*If the air bag develops holes, you can repair small tears with Marine 5200, or swap the bag with a new one and order a replacement.

# SMELTS: Accessories (same as EdgeTech)

**Transducer** – deployed off the side of the vessel and communicates via an acoustic signal with the unit on the seafloor\*

**Deck box** – allows for communication between transducer and mobile app

**Trap Tracker mobile app**– interface for plotting gear location and initiating acoustic release of gear



\* Transducer shown here is a “dunk” transducer, but there are also “through hull” transducers that are mounted right on the hull of the vessel.

# SMELTS: Pre-trip Preparations, Steps 1-2 of 5

1) Download Trap Tracker app on your mobile device to use the yellow EdgeTech deck box with transducer.

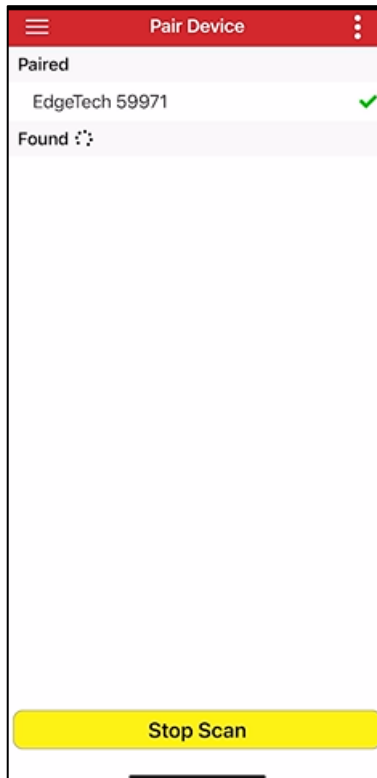


2) Turn on your yellow deck box. It will beep to let you know it's working.



# SMELTS: Pre-trip Preparations, Steps 3-5 of 5

3) Open Trap Tracker app on your mobile device and pair app with serial number on the yellow deck box.



4) Ensure the transducer is stored somewhere on the vessel it won't fall and break.

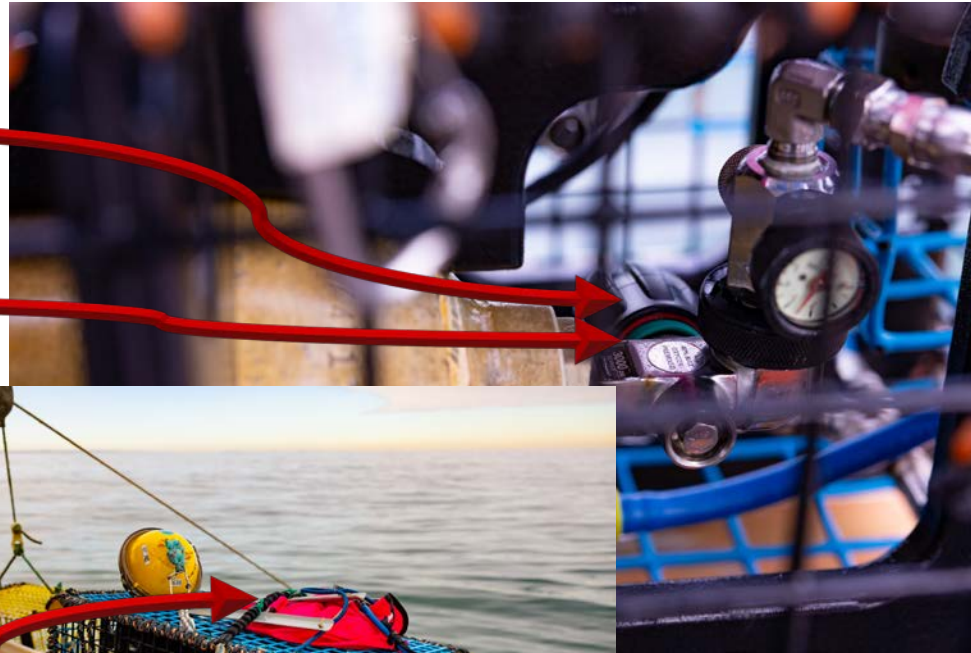


5) Make sure you have an extra air tank and extra lift bags in case one tears.

Ready to start fishing!

# SMELTS: Setting Gear, Steps 1-3 of 7

1) Turn the air tank on by turning the black knob. The ring at the top should be green, not red.



2) Make sure the deflated lift bag is tucked under the bungee cord.



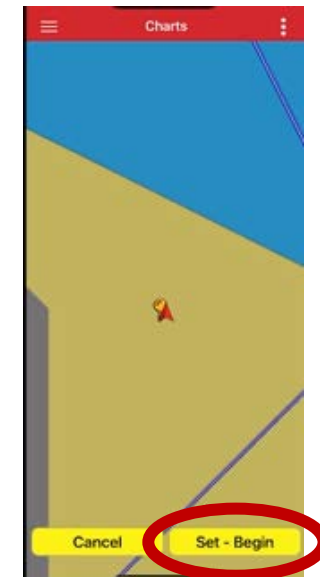
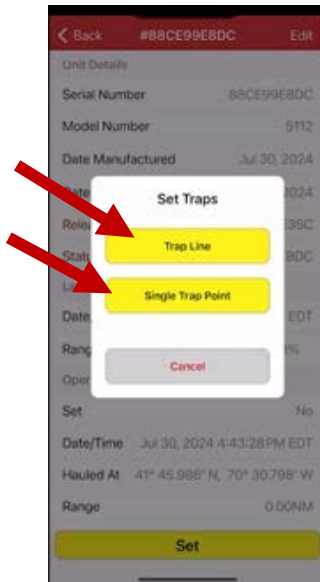
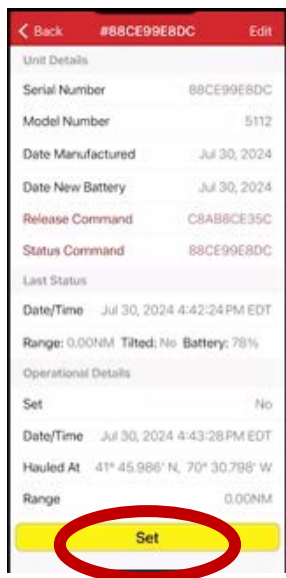
3) Attach the unit to either end of the trawl or to a single pot/trap.

# SMELTS: Setting Gear, Step 4 of 7

4) Open the app on your mobile device. Hit “set” and choose “trap line” for trawl or “single trap” for single pot/trap.

The screen will show you where the other gear in the area is, so make sure you’re not setting on top of someone else’s gear,

and then hit “set begin” when you’re ready to deploy.



# SMELTS: Setting Gear, Steps 5-7 of 7

5) Set as usual.

6) Hit “set end”.

7) Don't forget to hit “update” on the app when you're done setting the gear and when you get back into cell phone range – this will allow others to see where your traps are set to ensure they don't set on top of your gear.



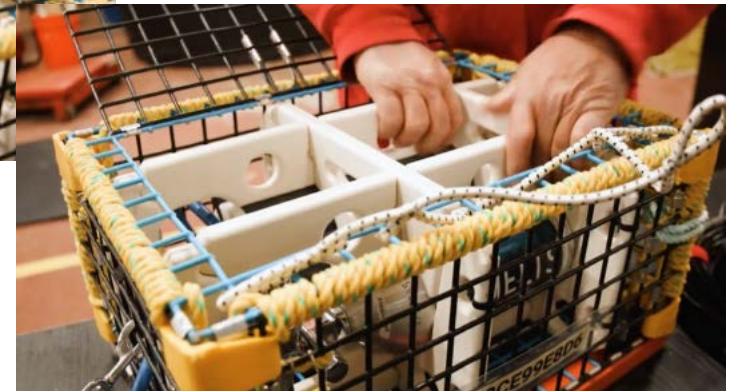


# SMELTS: Keeping Air Tanks Full, Steps 1-2 of 5

**1) Keep an eye on the pressure gauge on the air tank after retrieval. After 1-2 offshore hauls or 10-12 inshore hauls, check to make sure the tank has enough air.**



**2) To remove the air tank, open the lid of the unit – unhook the bungee cord, open hinged lid, remove the white, grid-like section (it lifts right out).**



# SMELTS: Keeping Air Tanks Full, Step 3 of 5

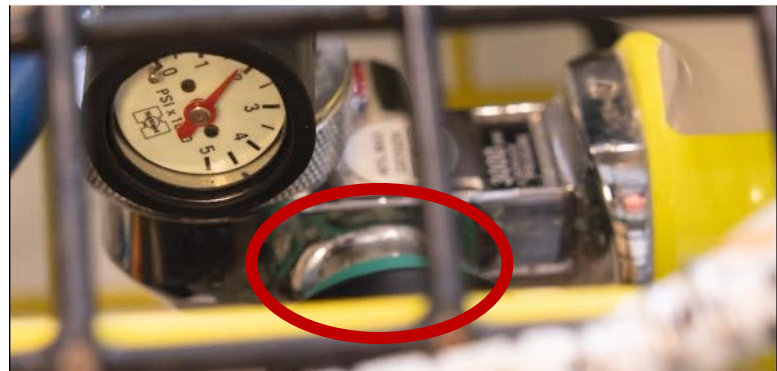
**3) Close the air tank valve handle (black knob) until it shows red. Disconnect the tube from the tank. Remove the tank.**



# SMELTS: Keeping Air Tanks Full, Steps 4-5 of 5

**4) Bring the tank to the gear lending facility for refilling.**

**5) To replace the tank in the unit once it is full of air, put the silver valve back on top. Lay the tank in the unit, reconnect the tube to the tank, turn the black knob until green is showing, replace the white section, close the lid, and refasten the bungee cord to hold the lid shut.**



# SMELTS: Hauling Gear, Step 1 of 6

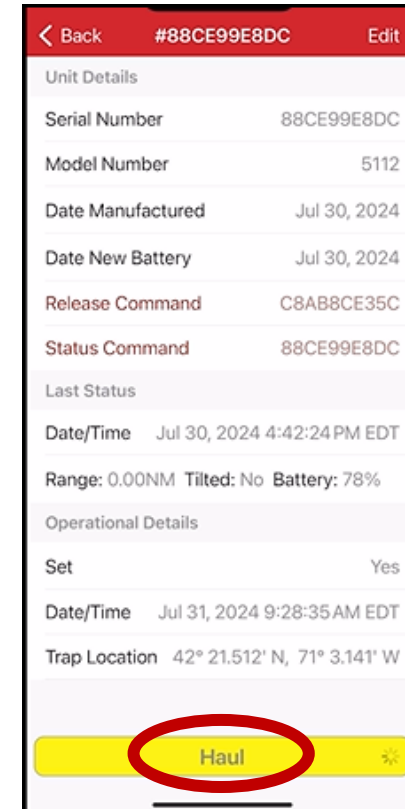
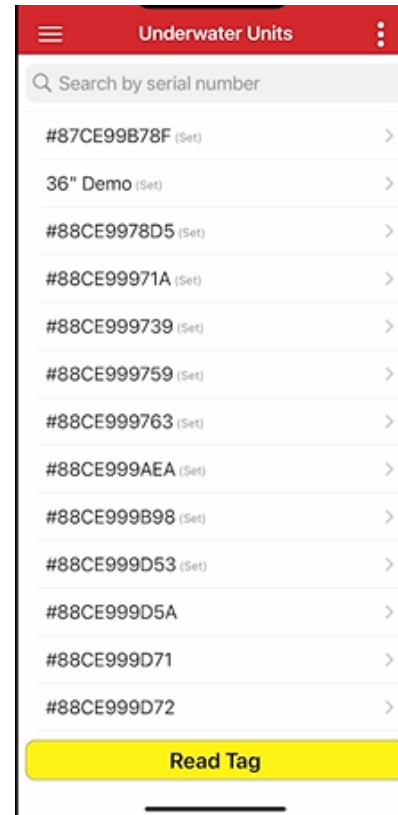
1) Plug the dunk transducer\* in to deck box. Place the transducer carefully on the deck and not somewhere from where it can fall.

\*Dropping it and knocking it around can make the screws fall off, causing it not to work. If this happens, remove the cover and try again, or replace the screws.



# SMELTS: Hauling Gear, Step 2 of 6

**2) Open the Trap Tracker app on your mobile device. There are serial numbers associated with each unit. Look in “underwater units” and choose the serial number for the unit you want to haul, and then click “haul” and then “yes”. You’ll hear the deck box respond.**



# SMELTS: Hauling Gear, Steps 3-5 of 6

**3) Wait for the signal from the transducer. When it picks up where the trap is located, the deck box will beep. This usually takes 20 to 30 seconds. After you hear the signal, wait for the trap to come to the surface.**



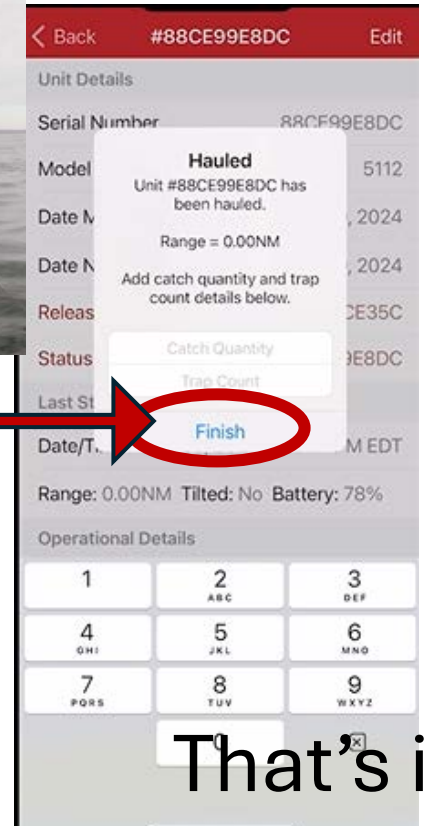
**4) There's a tilt sensor in the unit and after a certain, specified time, it will stop releasing air into the bag. The bag will not explode because there's a relief valve on it. As it raises in the water, air is releasing from the bag.**

**5) When it breaks the surface, approach the unit, retrieve it, and haul it in.**



# SMELTS: Hauling Gear, Step 6 of 6

**6) Pull the release valve, collapse the airbag\*, get as much air out as you can. Fold it up and tuck it back under the bungee cord to be ready to deploy again. Hit finish on the app.**



\*If there is water coming out of the bag when you're deflating it, make sure you drain all the water from the bag via the pressure release valves. To make sure water doesn't keep getting in the bag, make sure the quick release or threaded fitting connection from the bag to the system is properly and snugly attached.