

High Praise For ARC Dehooker (written by Steve Wright)

ARC Dehooker, a device for safely removing hooks from fish, is a Madfin Shark Fishing Series sponsor, and the company has offered some cash prizes for Madfin competitors who use the product.

But Mike Mahan didn't need any incentive to use the device, after overcoming an initial learning curve. Mahan is Moore's partner on Team Andros, which had Thursday's high score of 2,600 points.

"Mike has got it down," Moore said. "He has shown me time and time again that is a simple machine. It's a simple tool and it's a great tool. You've just got to understand the tool. Once you understand it, it opens up all the doors for you."

Those are doors to points in the Madfin Series, where conservation is emphasized and successfully unhooking a shark doubles the point total for the shark species caught.

"He was popping hooks left and right," Moore said. "Last year, especially, but the last two years that's what has kicked our butts so bad, getting that hook out."

Mahan explained his indoctrination to the ARC Dehooker, saying, "At our captains' meeting we had a demonstration. I'm looking at it. I think, 'Okay, I've got that, let's try it.'"

"One of the things we try to ensure is that we get the hook out, especially in a nurse shark because that can result in a point deduction if you don't.

"We were 100 percent today — two nurse sharks and eight lemons."

Said Moore, "Mike takes the leader, pops it and we're done. Last year we'd spend 15 minutes trying to get the hook out."

The ARC Dehooker is made in various sizes and lengths for different species of fish. It received a 2006 IGFA Conservation Award.

For more information, see www.arcdehooker.com.