(54) Abstract Title: Lead weight release mechanism

(57) The mechanism comprises a clip which can be attached to a length of fishing line. A prong 1 extends from the clip having two portions. In use when the weight is located on the first portion a predetermined force cannot free the weight from the clip but when it is located in the second portion the same force will cause the weight to be freed from the line. The second portion may be flexible and include a region of weakness which comprises releasable male and female members 2.
Fishing clip with a lead weight releasing mechanism

Fishing weights can become trapped in snags, resulting in the line snapping. A very weak line attaching the lead weight would break when the weight became snagged. The problem with this however is that it would also snap when a heavy weight is cast. Casting exerts a significant force on the line. The releasing mechanism has a casting prong, fig. 1. 1, that is strong enough to take the force exerted on the lead weight. On hitting the water, the lead slides off the casting prong and into the position shown in Fig.2.

Fig.3 shows the clip after having released, when the lead weight is snagged. The end of the casting prong has a snap fixing 2, that clips into the female part of the clip shown at 3.

Figure 4 shows a different arrangement, where the releasing clip is held by a tail rubber 4. The rubber is pushed over the end of the clip to secure it. Fig. 5 shows the clip after releasing the lead weight. In this case it is retained by the tail rubber.

Fig.6 shows another arrangement. In this case the lead weight drops down into position 5 after the cast. When the lead is snagged, the clip snaps at a weak point, shown in Fig.7,6.
Claims

This mechanism enables an angler to cast a lead weight and if the weight becomes trapped to lose the weight and not the rest of the tackle.
The releasing clip is secured to the casting spike by a clip system, the will become unclipped, releasing the weight at a precise tension, defined by the raised section in the male part and the depth of the groove in the female section that it locates in.
A second version of this system, has a weak portion that can snap when the weight is trapped.
Amendments to the claims have been filed as follows:

Claims:

1. A clip for attaching a weight to a length of line, comprising means for connecting
   the clip to the length of line and a prong extending from the clip, wherein the
   prong includes a first portion proximate the clip for supporting a weight in a first
   position in use and a second portion for supporting the weight in a second position
   in use, such that when the weight is in the second position, application of a
   predetermined force to the weight will cause the weight to be freed from the
   prong, but when the weight is in the first position the force is insufficient to free
   the weight.

2. A clip according to Claim 1, wherein the weight is slidably moveable between the
   first and second positions.

3. A clip according to either of Claims 1 and 2, wherein the second portion is
   flexible.

4. A clip according to any preceding claim, wherein the second portion includes a
   region of weakness, such that application of the force in use will break the region
   of weakness.

5. A clip according to Claim 4, wherein the region of weakness comprises releasably
   engageable male and female members.

6. A clip substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying
   figures.
Application No: GB0426001.4  
Examiner: Paul Jenkins  
Claims searched: 1-6  
Date of search: 12 April 2006

**Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17**

**Documents considered to be relevant:**

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**Field of Search:**

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^X:  

- A1A  
- Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC  
- A01K  

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:  

- WPI, EPODOC