



KEEPING BASS ALIVE

FIZZING

SWIM BLADDER RELIEF (“FIZZING”). Fish caught from deep water, generally greater than 18-20 feet, can suffer from over expansion of the swim bladder (this is called a “hyperbuoyant” condition). Fish suffering from this condition cannot maintain a normal upright position or submerge and are less likely to survive. Fizzing is the answer. Tournament officials must be trained and proficient with this technique so they can perform the procedure on fish brought to weigh-in. However, air bladder relief is best done as soon as the fish shows signs of distress. This means that anglers should also learn the technique so that the procedure can be performed in the boat as soon as hyperbuoyancy is detected.

- Swim bladder over-inflation can be remedied by inserting a 2-inch-long, 18-gauge hypodermic needle into the swim bladder to relieve the excess gas pressure. The needles can be obtained from farm or veterinary supply firms.
- Side Method. The needle is inserted approximately ½ to 1 inch behind (towards the tail) the tip of the pectoral fin.
- Holding the fish under water during the procedure helps let you know that the needle has entered the swim bladder because bubbles can be seen escaping from the needle. Do not squeeze the fish to force out more gas.



TOYOTA supports conservation and encourages you to “Keep Bass Alive”

