

10 top Tips for Keeping Bass Alive

1. Land fish quickly.
2. Don't play them to exhaustion. Use barbless or circle hooks whenever possible.
3. Protect the slime coat. Only touch fish with wet hands. Don't let fish flop on the boat deck. Use a rubber or nylon landing net.
4. Hold small bass vertically by the lower jaw. Support large fish horizontally with a hand under the anal fin.
5. Minimize air exposure time. Remove hooks quickly with as little tissue damage as possible.
6. Determine immediately if you are going to keep or release the fish and plan accordingly.
7. Proper livewell operation is a must to maximize survival.
8. Learn to spot swim bladder overinflation; immediately use side fizzing to relieve the condition.
9. Don't release fish into stagnant backwaters and high traffic areas.
10. Do not release injured fish or those too weak to swim. It's better to harvest these.