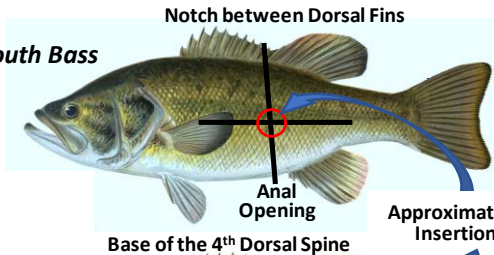




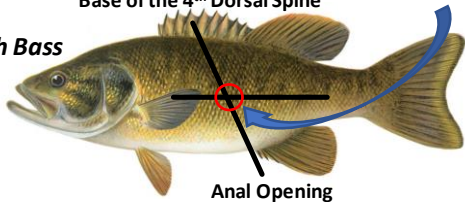
Barotrauma Relief "Fizzing"

For a video go to
www.Bassmaster.com/conservation
and click on *Conservation Videos*

Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



18-ga. 1-1/2 in.
needle with wire
reamer and
braided keeper
line.



Insert needle at
45° angle under
scale, through
skin, then rotate
to 90° and push in.

Steps to treating Barotrauma - over-inflation of the swim bladder

1. Put fish in livewell allowing 5-10 minutes to acclimate before assessing need, re-assess several times throughout the day and treat fish immediately when symptoms are seen.
2. Symptoms – Fish can't remain upright, constantly struggle to submerge, float on side or back, bulge on side near tip of pectoral fin.
3. Hold fish firmly, slightly out of water (or place on smooth, wet surface) to insert needle.
4. Target area is the intersection of a line drawn straight towards the tail from the tip of the pectoral fin laid flat against the fish, with the vertical line for each species as shown in the diagrams: for largemouth, a near vertical line from the notch in the dorsal fin to the anal pore; and for smallmouth a diagonal line from the base of the 4th dorsal spine to the anal pore.
5. Insert clean 18-gauge x 1-1/2 inch hypodermic needle under a scale and into skin at a 45° angle towards the fish' head. Penetrate skin then rotate needle vertical to 90° and push straight in.
6. Keeping a wire reamer in the barrel of the needle while inserting will prevent clogging. Reamer can be made from welding tip cleaner wire or 10-ga stainless wire from tackle component suppliers. Attach reamer to needle hub with a length of braided fishing line (see photo on other side).
7. Hold the fish under water. Remove reamer after fish is submerged. Watch for bubbles. DO NOT squeeze. Allow gas to escape until the fish becomes neutrally buoyant (neither sinking nor floating).
8. Don't keep fish out of water longer than YOU can hold your breath - that's what the fish is doing!
9. Return fish to livewell and monitor frequently. A fish swimming upright is ready for release. But if the fish is still struggling/floating on its back or side, it could need a second fizzing.