



## KEEPING BASS ALIVE Top 10 Fish Care Tips

- 1 Land fish quickly. Don't play them to exhaustion.
- 2 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. Follow guidelines in *Keeping Bass Alive* at [Bassmaster.com/conservation](http://Bassmaster.com/conservation).
- 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.

Learn more at

[Bassmaster.com/conservation](http://Bassmaster.com/conservation)