

Fizzing Bass

A good indication that a Bass **NEEDS TO BE FIZZED** is that it is laying on its side in the livewell, with a bloated appearance, soon after it has been put in.

Step 1 – Make sure livewell conditions are good and aerators are running.

Make sure the 18 gauge x 1.5" fizzing needle is not plugged. It is **NOT** recommended placing the fish in a livewell containing chemicals that "energize" the fish prior to fizzing. You want the fish as calm as possible.

Step 2 – Hold fish firmly, slightly out of the water or place on a firm, wet, smooth surface.

Step 3 (Largemouth) – Locate the dorsal notch or area where the dorsal fins meet.

Step 3 (Smallmouth) – Locate the 4th spine back on the front dorsal fin.

Step 4 – Draw an imaginary line from that location to the anal opening.

Step 5 – Mark a spot approximately 1" below the lateral line, along the imaginary line and remove one scale or slide needle under a scale.

Step 6 (Largemouth) – Insert the "unplugged" needle into the fish at a 45 degree angle towards the fishes head.

Step 6 (Smallmouth) – Insert "unplugged" needle part way into the fish at a 45 degree angle towards the fishes head and then rotate the needle to 90 degrees.

Step 7 – Lower the fish into the water while continuing to insert the needle until air bubbles appear. Do not force air from the fish. Air bubbles should stop within 5-8 seconds. If the needle is fully inserted and no bubbles appear, remove the needle and check for blockage and repeat step 6 & 7.

Step 8 – Place the fish back in the livewell and monitor regularly. If the fish still struggles on its side and appears bloated, you may need to fizz the fish again. If the fish is able to swim upright in the livewell, it is ready to be brought for weigh-in and ready for release.

Remember – **Not fizzing your fish soon after catching them can kill them or cause permanent damage to their internal organs.**

Courtesy of Michigan B.A.S.S. Federation Nation www.michiganbass.net
and Cruncher Baits www.cruncherbaits.com