

Bass Pro Shops - Fish Donations

Angler Rules

1. All donations must be pre-approved by individual on the Fish Alive Hotline.
2. Bass Pro Shops reserves the right to refuse any donation based upon reasons of fish health, display needs, federal or state game laws etc.
3. Anglers must always call Bass Pro Shops Fish Hotline (417-873-5000) before transporting fish to ensure someone will be able to accept the fish. All fish will be inspected upon delivery prior to taking possession.
4. Bass Pro Shops **must** be contacted within 4 hours of the catch, fish should be in Bass Pro Shops possession within 12 hours.
5. Bass Pro Shops will not pay, give gift certificates, or provide merchandise for individuals who provide live fish or animals. We may however, provide a fiberglass replica if fish meets program requirements.
6. Bass Pro Shops will not accept Endangered, Protected, or Invasive species.
7. Anglers are responsible for abiding by all state and federal laws relating to fish capture, possession, and transportation. (*it is illegal in some areas to transport live fish)
8. Upon donating, the fish becomes the sole property and responsibility of Bass Pro Shops.

Hints for a successful transport

- ÿ After landing the fish, immediately place in a well aerated livewell. Aeration is critical if the water temperatures are above 80 degrees.
- ÿ The addition of 1/2-1 cup 'Table Salt' will assist the fish.
- ÿ Fill your livewell with the same water from which the fish was caught - if possible do not collect water from boat launch areas, these may contain contaminants.
 - Do not use tap water to fill livewell (ensure your water source does not have chlorine or other potentially harmful chemicals).
 - Do not hold fish temporarily in swimming pools, bath tubs, etc.
- ÿ Transport fish immediately to reduce stress and increase chances for survival.
- ÿ Fish should be transported in a container large enough for them to fully extend without bending (at minimum).
- ÿ If using a net to retrieve fish, be sure it is of adequate size to prevent too much strain on vertebral column. Longer fish like gar, catfish, and pike are extremely susceptible to spinal injuries.
- ÿ Fish taken quickly out of deep water could have permanent swim bladder issues.
- ÿ Do not place fish on a stringer at any time. This will permanently damage the gills and open the fish up to infection which could severely reduce their chances for survival.

Pictures, etc.

- ÿ Do not excessively handle or keep out of water for extended periods.
- ÿ Large fish (i.e. Bass) should not be lifted by the jaw alone. This could result in jawbone fractures, an injury that often is not noticeable for weeks or months.
- ÿ If necessary to hold for pictures, use caution to support the entire body while touching the fish as little as possible.