

The beautiful bass you just took off a 35-foot rock pile is floating belly-up. Now what? You know the problem. Its distended gut tells you the swim bladder is expanded, which keeps the fish from diving to bottom. You also know the solution—[fizzing](#). But frankly, jamming a hollow, 18-gauge needle into a fish's vitals isn't exactly in your comfort zone.

The term for this condition is: [barotrauma](#), and it happens when bladder gas expands as a fish is reeled from deep water to the surface. Reversing the condition is easy, [if you know the steps](#), and it's a skill every angler should master.

Here is an interesting video on how to "fizz" a bass and get the air out so it does not die. This same site has other videos about the subject but this method is the preferred one.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2etof7_x8NE&feature=related