

## Standard Operating Procedures for Use of Lake Dardanelle Live Release Trailer

The Live-Release Trailer was developed for black bass tournament organizers to aid in the survival of tournament caught black bass as well as releasing the fish back to that particular lake at multiple sites to avoid the stockpiling of bass at popular weigh-in locations.



The trailer will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis at the [District 9 Fisheries Office](#). While using this trailer, the driver must be aware that this is a heavy-duty trailer that is very heavy when loaded down with water and fish. It is much like hauling a large bass boat and caution should be used while using this trailer.

### Below are the requirements for using the live-release trailer

- **A valid Arkansas Driver's License**
- **Minimum age of twenty-one with a clean driving record**
- **Someone that is familiar with pulling a boat or heavy trailer**
- **Tow vehicle must be no less than a ½ ton pickup, preferably a ¾ ton**
- **A trailer light plug on the tow vehicle with seven (round) to five (flat) capability (AGFC will provide the adapter)**
- **Extreme caution should be used when using this trailer at all times (loaded or not)**

- Drive very cautiously allowing enough space between you and the vehicle in front of you
- Set mirrors to maximize visibility of trailer while in tow
- Fish must be released into the same lake in which the tournament is being held and release sites must be made available to the
- An ATIP card must be filled out

### Procedures for using the Live-Release Trailer

- Fill tank to within 8-10 inches from the top using the battery and pump located in the tool box. **(Never turn oxygen bottle on before you fill tanks!)**
- Add ten (8) scoops of Aquahaul (provided) to each tank using the five-gallon bucket provided on the trailer.
- Before turning the oxygen bottle on, make sure the ball valve on the oxygen line is closed. About fifteen minutes prior to the weigh-in, turn the oxygen bottle on by turning the valve on top of the bottle all the way to the left until it stops. The key for removing the safety cap is located in a magnetic key box inside the tool box.



**Ball valve on oxygen supply line in the closed position**

- **Keep lids closed until weigh-in begins.**
- **The regulator should be set on 40psi and can be adjusted by using the T-handle on the face of the regulator. Do not set this or let it exceed 50psi.**

Proper location of needle when in use (40psi)



T-Handle for adjusting pressure

Regulator showing proper location of needle and T-handle

- **On each tank there are flow meters that regulate the amount of oxygen going to each tank. These should be set between one and two for both tanks. They should not exceed two to avoid harm to the fish.**



Flow meter

Proper location of ball in flow meter while in use, between 1 and 2.

- Remember that these are approximately 200-gallon tanks and can comfortably hold up to one pound of fish per gallon of water (400 lbs. of fish for this trailer). Once the maximum number of pounds and fish are loaded, all remaining fish should be released at the weigh-in site ASAP and not placed onto the trailer.
- After the weigh-in is completed, the fish must be released back into the lake in which the tournament was held. We will leave it up to the tournament director as to which ramp(s) to stock them at, but would like to be made aware as to where they were released.
- Please remove any dead fish from the tank before release, DO NOT PUT DEAD FISH BACK INTO LAKE!
- Upon arriving at the release site, the trailer can be backed down to the water so that the tubes on the back of the tank are at least partially submerged. The oxygen bottle now needs to be turned off. The lids can now be opened, but open them slowly because the fish will be shocked by the light and may begin jumping. The ball valve needs to be opened, on the main oxygen supply line, to bleed off the pressure to the diffusers. Allow a couple of minutes for this to take place. These diffusers are ceramic and will crack if they are pressurized without being covered with water. Before

releasing the fish, you can pick up the diffuser using the float that is attached to it and place it on top of the tank so that the fish can escape through the trough in the tank. Once this is completed, the fish may be released by pulling up on the gate handle. Be cautious as to open the correct gate for the corresponding tank. Occasionally, a few fish will be stranded in the tank and you can use the broom in the toolbox to help flush the fish out. The process just needs to be repeated for releasing fish in the other tank.



Release tubes on back of tank

- After fish release is complete, pull up and secure the safety cap on the oxygen bottle, tank lids, drain tube plugs, and tool box components.

#### Materials provided in the tool box

- Battery
- Pump and hose
- Dip net
- Aquahaul
- 4-way
- Keys for oxygen bottle safety cap
- Broom
- Crescent wrench

**Please report any problems with the tank or trailer upon return!!!!**

**Please sign below verifying that you have completely read and understand the guidelines for using this trailer.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_