

Standard Operating Procedures for Use of 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 Hot Springs Regional 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 1/2 ton pickup, preferably a 3/4 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 Black Bass Program**
- **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.**
- **Add ten (10) 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 an envelope 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 50psi and can be adjusted by using the T-handle on the face of the regulator. Do not set this or let it exceed 50psi.**

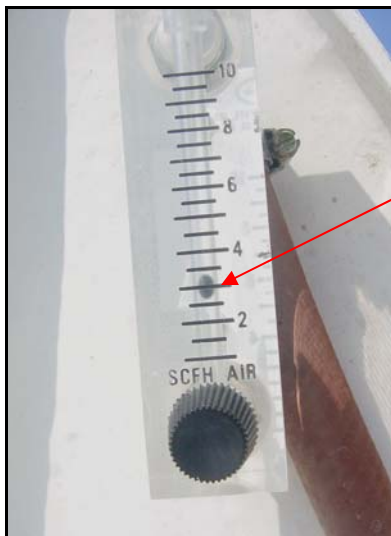
Proper location of needle when in use (50psi)



T-Handle for adjusting pressure

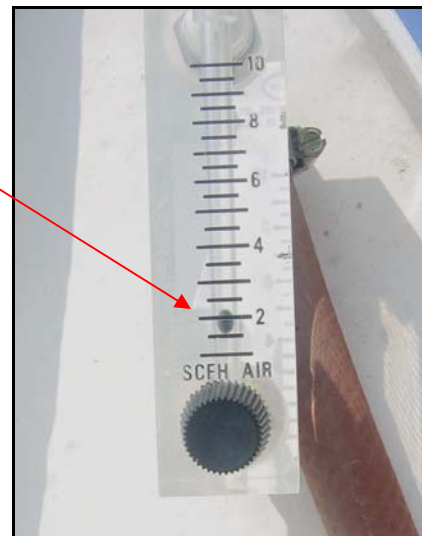
Regulator showing proper location of needle and T-handle

- **On each tank there are flow meters that regulate the amount of oxygen going to each tank. These should be set at 3 on the front tank and 2 on the back and monitored regularly.**



Flow meter set at three (3)

Flow meters showing the proper position of the ball on both tanks.



Flow meter set at two (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 waters edge far enough so that the water is not standing on the deck of the trailer. The oxygen bottle now needs to be turned off and the release tube attached to the pipe on the back of the trailer. The lids can now be opened, but open them slowly because the fish will be shocked by the light and may begin jumping. Before releasing the fish, you can pick up the oxygen rack 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. Be cautious as to open the correct gate for the tank in which the tube is attached. Occasionally, a few fish will be stranded in the tank and you can use the five gallon bucket and get some water out of the other tank and flush them out. The process just needs to be repeated for releasing the other tank.**



Pipes on back of tank



Release tube

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

Materials provided in the tool box

- Battery
- Pump and hose
- Dip net
- Aquahaul
- Five-gallon bucket (on the end of release tube)
- Tools
- Keys for oxygen bottle safety cap
- Trash bags
- Broom

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 _____