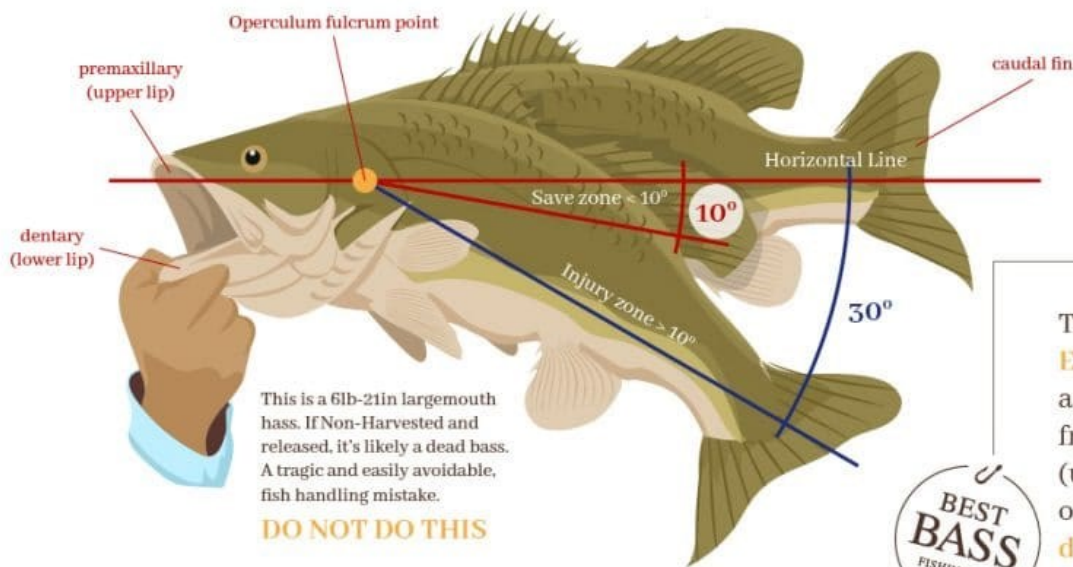


# Ways To Hold A Bass



This is a 6lb-21in largemouth bass. If Non-Harvested and released, it's likely a dead bass. A tragic and easily avoidable, fish handling mistake.

**DO NOT DO THIS**

**Horizontal Lip-Holding** Technique often used on Large and Smallmouth Bass, **IS injurious**; potentially leading to higher rates of mortality in Non-Harvested fish

To AVOID INJURY, **DO NOT EXCEED** an angle of **10°** off a horizontal line, running from the premaxillary (upper lip) through the fork of the caudal fin. **Avoid this danger by holding a bass VERTICALLY** by the dentary (lower lip)



Holding a bass might seem like the easy part of fishing, but it deserves some attention as well. If you don't know how to hold a bass properly, you can hurt it or yourself. In a worst-case scenario, you'll put the bass back in the water, thinking the fish is okay, but they won't recover quickly enough, and they'll die down there.

If you hold the bass at an angle greater than 10 degrees, you're putting too much pressure on their jaw, which causes it to dislocate without you even knowing it. When this happens, the bass cannot close their jaw properly, which means they are unable to hunt. Long story short, if they can't hunt, they can't eat, and they will likely die.

You have two primary safe holding options, and either is okay. Let's talk about some of the ways to hold a bass.

Many say that this is the safest way to hold a bass. You'll hold it with your finger in its mouth on the bottom lip and the rest of your fingers outside the mouth underneath the lip. The bass's tail will hang below its body, so there is limited pressure on the jaw because you don't need to bend it down to hold it properly.

Make sure you're keeping a firm grip on the bottom jaw in the vertical position so it doesn't slip away from you and don't bend the jaw back too much, or you could damage it.