

» Fish Handling

For those who handle fish, most importantly tournament fishermen, several new products are not to be missed. I've been using **Glory Bags** in bass tournaments for seven years and I feel they represent a major breakthrough in fish handling. Those who share my boat are quickly converted. These zippered cocoons house bass within the livewell, keeping them unstressed, since they don't get jostled by other fish or wave action. They remain in fine shape and are scarcely handled once caught. To weigh or balance-beam fish, merely attach the bag's loop to a scale or cull clip, no tearing holes in fish's jaw, \$79.99. Owner Tommy Ball adds his **Glory Weigh Bag**, which has a zippered mesh top to allow water flow, while the lower part is tough vinyl to hold plenty of water while transporting fish from the boat to weigh-in facility, with three carrying handles. No more leaky bags and waterless bass, \$19.95—glorybag.com.

Water quality in the livewell is obviously critical to bass health. Based on physics, as water temperature rises, its capacity to hold oxygen declines, increasing the risk of stress to fish. To reduce temperatures in the well, which can rise on sunny days and in hot weather, Judy Tipton invented the **VT-2**, part of her New Pro Products line. This system adds a flush-mounted louver to the top of each livewell, which allows escape of warm air, including extra CO₂, and adds cooler air as the boat runs down the lake. Inserted through holes cut in the livewell lids, these devices permanently improve water quality with no power or moving parts, \$45—newproproducts.com.

To check the weight of a big bass, anglers employ spring or digital scales, most of which come with hooks that must be punched through the fish's jaw. In contrast, the new **Cuda Grip & Scale** can grip and weigh fish up to 50 pounds with an integrated scale. The aluminum-alloy jaws fit snugly, but don't damage fish. A non-slip handle with a tether help keep

it on board, \$54—cudabrands.com.

Rapala has added a new fish-friendly scale, the **Rapala 15 lb. Touch Screen Tournament Model**. It weighs fish on a pinch-clip that holds the jaw securely but without damage, and also stores fish weights and indicates the lightest fish for culling. Comes with eight floating cull tags with pinching jaws to hold fish and a carrying bag, \$49.99—rapala.com.



VT-2

Glory Weigh Bag



Glory Bags



Cuda Grip & Scale



Rapala 15 lb. Touch Screen Tournament Scale Weigh System

» Eyewear

Many excellent sunglasses designed for anglers are available. But sadly, for myopic folks like myself, few companies offer lenses for special prescriptions, including astigmatism and progressive bi-focals. In today's world of aging anglers, I am not alone. Recently, I've been pleased with prescription polarized sunglasses from three companies—Maui Jim, Sport Rx, and Wiley X—who have the lab facilities to grind these special lenses. **Maui Jim**, based on Hawaii, offers an array of styles for anglers. Four lens colors and three materials are available among their selection of nearly 100 styles, \$189 to \$339 (non-Rx)—mauijim.com.

Wiley X glasses are highly regarded for safety, as all are ANSI safety rated, able to withstand .25 caliber pellets fired at 150 FPS, so they won't shatter if your partner launches a jig into your face. They also feature patented

Facial Cavity Seals that block all peripheral light and wind, as well as bugs, dust, and pollen. Their Filter 8 polarized lenses are specially crafted with eight layers of material to provide strength and excellent vision in various light levels. Thirty styles are available, with a choice of up to six lens colors, depending on the model, \$58 to \$150 (non-Rx)—wileyx.com.

Sport Rx, based in San Diego, boasts a sophisticated lab that can fulfill a wide range of prescriptions in frame styles from over a dozen companies, including Maui Jim and Wiley X, along with Adidas, Nike, Oakley, Hobie, Ray-Ban, Bolle, and more. The interactive Prescription Analyzer on the company website helps define suitable styles, based on your prescription, or speak with a representative, \$70 to \$295 (non-Rx)—sportrx.com. ■



Maui Jim Atoll



Wiley X Gravity



Nike Mercurial 6.0