

# FISHING TIPS

Have you noticed when you catch a fish in deep water, it often comes up with its stomach blown out of its mouth? Many fish have gas in their swim bladder and gas expands as the water pressure decreases, so when we pull up our fish from deep down, the gas in their swim bladder pushes their stomach out of their mouths – YUK!

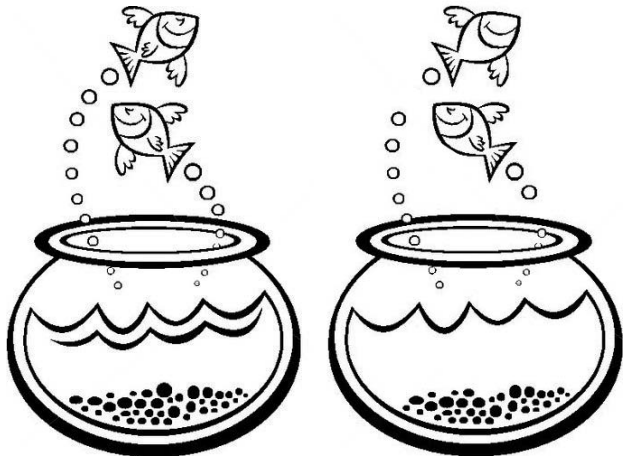
Fish affected will often pop up to the surface like a cork because of the increased buoyancy provided by the expanded gas.

Badly blown fish cannot be released, as the expansion of the swim bladder to that point will kill most fish. It is the pressure on the internal organs that does the damage, but less excessively blown fish can sometimes survive by inserting a sharp knife into the fish's side to release the excess gas through the gut cavity wall. This is only to be done by an adult. Fish released after doing this may take a while to re-orientate, and may swim upside down, or they may still be incapable of swimming away, so you might as well keep them for eating! Don't forget, if they are undersize, throw them back.

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:

Look at these two almost identical pictures and spot the eight differences.

Answers at the bottom of page 24



## In to win! FIJI

As part of the kids section in next year's Family Fishing competition, you could win a trip to Fiji for two adults and two kids (under 12-years). All you have to do is catch a fish between now and the beginning of March 2009 (before the fishing competition), take a photo of you and your fish, then send it to Sprat Chat with your name, age and phone number on the back – and you're in the draw to win.

There are some rules so get mum or dad to

check out the OBC website under 'fishing competition' or pick up a copy from the OBC office.

For further information on Fiji and any other holiday destinations please call our sponsor – North Harbour Corporate Travel, phone 448 2053 - that has helped put this fantastic prize together. Please remember to support our partnering sponsors where possible.

