



US Army Corps  
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Mobile District

# News Release

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News Release: [www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/)

## ***LAKE LANIER LEVELS WILL CONTINUE TO DECREASE***

**Mobile, Ala.** - As widespread and very severe drought conditions continue to dominate the weather in the southeast, Lake Lanier is obviously lower than normal for this time of year. Dry conditions are projected to continue for the foreseeable future unless weather patterns change.

Lake Lanier is part of a larger multi-purpose river basin and the Corps must manage the lake to balance the demands for water across the entire system. Water supply, water quality, hydropower, fish and wildlife and recreation are all factors considered in managing the system. West Point and Walter F. George lakes further south on the river have nearly exhausted their water conservation storage. As a result, flows from Lanier will be increased to meet the minimum flows required for the endangered and threatened species in Florida below Jim Woodruff Dam in the Apalachicola River and to provide necessary flows for cooling water intakes at Plant Scholtz, a power plant on the river. Scholtz is critical to electrical supply grid in north Florida.

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## **2-2-2 LAKE LANIER LEVELS WILL CONTINUE TO DECREASE**

Lake Lanier's recreation community is already feeling the impacts. Boaters should use extreme caution while on the lake. The Corps is issuing warnings about low water levels and the need for boaters to be especially watchful for stumps and other objects in the lakes. As new hazards are discovered Park Rangers mark them with an orange 14" diameter ball float.

As the lake continues to fall rangers cannot mark all hazards, including smaller channels or coves. The temporary markers will continue to be placed in the main channel and areas of heavier boat traffic but the public should not depend upon these markers to designate all hazards. Private boat dock owners should monitor water levels and take appropriate action to protect them as the water recedes. As docks are forced aground, they should be arranged in a manner to avoid large rocks and stumps and kept as level as possible to avoid damage. Boat owners who use marina mooring facilities should be aware that they will only be able to remove their boat from the lake for a very short while, as the usability of boat ramps quickly diminishes.

For more information about drought conditions and management of Corps projects in your area, contact 770-945-1467.

- Boat ramp calculator for all public ramps (including non-Corps operated) can be viewed at:

<http://lanier.sam.usace.army.mil/BoatRampElevations.htm>

- Closures of Corps operated public ramps and park open/closed schedules can be viewed at:

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### **3-3-3 LAKE LANIER LEVELS WILL CONTINUE TO DECREASE**

<http://lanier.sam.usace.army.mil/ParkSchedule.htm>

- Recorded information on open Corps operated boat ramps and lake levels can be obtained by calling 770-945-1467.
- Navigation Hazards. Contact Park Ranger Michael Hatcher at 770-945-9531 to report unmarked navigation hazards.
- Special Event Permits. Applications for night boating events will not be approved due to public safety concerns associated with low lake levels. Existing permits for day time fishing tournaments may have to be cancelled or rescheduled due to boat ramp use ability. Contact Park Ranger Brent Cossette at 770-945-9531 for more information.
- Down River Safety. Water releases will continue from Buford Dam and fishermen and boaters should use extreme caution. Water release schedules can be obtained by contacting the Corps at 770-945-1466.