



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**BUILDING STRONG.**

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Contact:  
E. Patrick Robbins, 251-690-2505  
Ervin.p.robbins@usace.army.mil

## **West Point Lake prepares for Drought Conditions**

**MOBILE, Ala.** – The Labor Day holiday weekend signifies the traditional end of the summer season for many visitors at West Point Lake, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reminds all lake users to use caution when in or near the water. Because of the dry weather, the reservoir level is projected to be some 5 - 6 feet below summer pool during Labor Day Weekend.

**Swimming:** At this time, 627.11 msl, all three designated swim areas are now sandy beaches. Visitors are cautioned from swimming too far from the shoreline. Swimmers should not swim out to or beyond the "boats keep out" buoys, as this is deeper water and puts you very close to boats navigating in the area. Life jacket loaner stations are located at all beach areas and encourage everyone to utilize this free service. Beaches close for the recreation season on Monday, 5 September 2011.

**Boating:** Boaters should be observant for any obstructions or hazards that might be in the water and should operate within the navigation channel, marked by red and green buoys (red/white vertically stripped for mid channel buoys). The Corps continues to monitor the main river and creek channels for navigation hazards and mark with temporary orange buoys or shoal markers. Boaters should not rely on all hazards being marked (we might not know of the hazard, the buoy may break off and drift away, etc...) and pay careful attention to the lake as they are underway. Always wear a lifejacket when boating!

**Boat Ramps:** Boaters are encouraged to utilize our boat ramp calculator located at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/westpt/Docs/BottomElevBoatLaunchRamps.pdf> to determine what ramps are usable at any given elevation. Today the elevation is 627 msl and the following ramps are not usable: Whitetail Ridge Campground, Amity Campground (south side). The following boat ramps will be closed by the Labor Day weekend: R. Shaefer Heard Day Use, Long Cane, Glass Bridge and Anderson Park. Six deep water launching ramps should be serviceable to a water level of 622 msl. and are located at the following parks: Yellowjacket, Georgia, Sunny Point, Horace King, Dewberry and Rocky Point.

West Point Lake is forecast to continue dropping for the next 5 weeks. As the lake level drops, increased awareness and caution must be used by the public when visiting the lake. For more specific information on this or any other issue related to the management of West Point Project, please contact the Project Management Office at 706-645-2937, or visit the West Point Lake website at <http://westpt.sam.usace.army.mil/>.

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