



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Mobile District

# News Release

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## Corps continues to monitor Lake Okatibbee water levels

**Mobile, Ala.** – The unseasonably dry weather has left Okatibbee Lake lower than normal for this time of year.

“Normally, rain falls nearly every month in the Southeast and the spring and early summer rains raise the lake to the summer pool level of 344. Normally Okatibbee Lake receives 22.7 inches of rain by this time; however, only 7 inches of rain have been recorded this year,” said Patrick Robbins, chief, public affairs. “The corps has developed action zones (see sidebar) based on past operations to cover events such as droughts to manage the demands on the water.”

The lack of rainfall is beginning to have an impact on the lake. The current level is 338.9 and falling. The first impact from the lower pool will be felt by the recreation community.

The first thing visitors will notice when the lake reach Action Zone 1 at a lake pool level of 338 is that the designated swim beaches are closed.

“The cool lake water looks inviting to swimmers; however, it is dangerous to swim outside the designated areas, Robbins said. “The swim beaches are groomed to have an even surface. There are no sudden, deep drop-offs or submerged obstacles.”

Boaters can continue to enjoy the center of the lake, but should exercise caution when running near the shoreline. They should also be sure to wear their life jackets when boating. “Wearing a life jacket can save your life,” Robbins said. “It is an extra precaution boaters can take whenever they are enjoying the lake.”

The action zones and lake level can be found on the web at <http://water.sam.usace.army.mil>. The lake level is updated daily.

## **Action Zones Sidebar**

### **Corps explains Action Zone Water Management Plan**

Okatibbee Lake has the mission to manage resources for flood control, recreation, water quality, water supply, as well as fish and wildlife management. Mobile District has developed Action Zones to ensure the lake's missions can be met.

**Action Zone 1.** Designated swim areas are closed. Notices are posted at boat ramps encouraging Boaters to use caution when operating near the shoreline. Releases will be made to support water supply and water quality.

**Action Zone 2.** Designated swim areas remain closed. Boat ramps are closed. Releases will be made to support water supply and water quality.

**Action Zone 3.** Designated swim areas remain closed. Majority of boat ramps closed. Marina will be impacted and sail boaters notified. Releases will be made to support water supply and water quality.

**Action Zone 4.** Designated swim areas remain closed. Boat ramps will continue to have problems with siltation. Releases will be made to support water supply and water quality. Boat ramps are closed.