

Program Overview:

Underwater woody debris such as logs, brush, and stumps are all natural fish attractors. Fish use these areas for protection, as places to ambush prey, and sometimes as spawning areas. As a reservoir ages much of this woody debris is lost through the natural process of decay or sedimentation. As a result, fish habitat is lost over time. This loss of habitat can cause a reduction in the total number of fish a lake can support. In addition, fish become increasingly spread out over the lake as they seek other, and sometimes less discernable structure on which to reside. This can make fishing difficult and requires anglers to cover larger areas of water in their efforts to entice a bite.

To counteract these natural processes man-made fish habitat is often created to replace that which is lost naturally over time. Such habitat improvements often come in the form of fish attractors. Fish attractors can be of various shapes and sizes, and made from a number of materials, but all serve the same purpose of providing underwater habitat for fish.

The Carters Lake Fish Attractor Program was initiated in 1999 as a joint project between the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Carters Lake Project, local businesses, and anglers. Through this cooperative partnership fish attractors are being placed annually at various locations within Carters Lake. The fish attractors are diverse in design and construction and have been built using recycled Christmas trees, PVC pipe, steel cages, and plastic shipping pallets. The advantage of using non-biodegradable materials such as PVC and plastic is that the fish attractors last much longer than those composed of wood.

Anglers can expect spotted and largemouth bass, yellow and white bass, sunfish, crappie, and catfish to potentially hold in and around the attractors at various times of the year. Fish these structures just like any other natural feature in the lake.

The online fish attractor location map will be updated annually to reflect new fish attractor locations and additions to existing sites. For more information about this program contact either the GADNR Summerville Fisheries Office (706-857-3394) or the USACE Carters Lake Project Manager's Office (706-334-2248).

Hints for Locating the Fish Attractors:

- Fish attractors are located in 20-30 ft. of water at full lake pool (elevation 1,072 ft.).
- Hand-held GPS units will typically get you within 10-15 ft. of the attractor's location.
- Once in the general area, use depth finders to pinpoint the attractor's exact location.
- The PVC fish attractors are not solid structures (like rocks) so they often appear lighter in color than the lake bottom on a depth finder.
- Once you have located a fish attractor, make mental notes of your surroundings so it will be easier to find on your next trip (ex. line up lake points, buoys, trees).
- Mark the exact spot using small marker buoys to help keep your boat and casts on target.

US Army Corps of Engineers

Carters Lake Fish Attractor Locations

				Fish Attractor Locations (NAD 83)	
Fish	Fish Attractor Type	Number of	Date	Latitude	Longitude
Attractor #	21	Units	Placed	(degrees, minutes)	(degrees, minutes)
1	Plastic pallet pyramids	20	11/2008	N34° 37.399'	W84° 37.215'
2	Plastic pallet pyramids	20	11/2008	N34° 37.617'	W84° 37.136'
3	Plastic pallet pyramids	20	11/2008	N34° 37.635'	W84° 36.809'
4	PVC trees	30	11/2008	N34° 36.670'	W84° 36.715'
5	Plastic pallet pyramids	20	11/2008	N34° 37.728'	W84° 38.145'
6	Christmas trees	15	6/2006	N34° 36.979'	W84° 37.792'
7	Christmas trees	80	1/2006	N34° 37.400'	W84° 38.521'
8	Christmas trees+pallets	200,31	2/2008	N34° 37.645'	W84° 39.245'
9	Christmas trees	80	1/2006	N34° 37.455'	W84° 39.460'
10	Christmas trees	90	1/2006	N34° 37.262'	W84° 38.686'
11	Christmas trees	123	1/2005	N34° 37.231'	W84° 39.738'
12	Christmas trees	154	1/2005	N34° 37.204'	W84° 38.567'
13	Christmas trees	50	1/2005	N34° 36.389'	W84° 36.794'
14	Shoreline trees	NA	7/2003	N34° 36.415'	W84° 39.402'
15	Shoreline trees	N/A	7/2003	N34° 36.305'	W84° 39.281'
16	PVC cubes	2	1/2002	N34° 37.363'	W84° 39.758'
17	PVC cubes	3	1/2002	N34° 37.289'	W84° 40.027'
18	PVC cubes	1	2/1999	N34° 36.251'	W84° 39.482'
19	PVC cubes	2	5/2002	N34° 35.589'	W84° 37.903'
20	PVC cubes	2	5/2002	N34° 36.057'	W84° 38.053'
21	PVC cubes+plastic pallets	3,18	5/2002	N34° 37.427'	W84° 38.061'
22	PVC trees	22	8/2002	N34° 35.780'	W84° 38.352'
23	PVC pup tent	4	2/2003	N34° 38.827'	W84° 39.224'
24	PVC trees	39	2/2004	N34° 38.047'	W84° 37.079'
25	PVC pup tent	4	2/2003	N34° 37.523'	W84° 38.688'
26	Plastic pallet stacks	8	5/2006	N34° 36.754'	W84° 39.071'
27	PVC trees	52	7/2004	N34° 37.420'	W84° 39.653'
28	PVC trees	54	7/2004	N34° 35.779'	W84° 38.769'
29	PVC trees	56	12/2004	N34° 37.023'	W84° 39.119'
30	Chicken cages	3	1/2003	N34° 36.903'	W84° 39.061'
31	Chicken cages	3	1/2003	N34° 36.639'	W84° 39.677'
32	Chicken cages+trees	3,79	1/2003	N34° 36.309'	W84° 39.596'
33	Chicken cages+trees	3,50	1/2003	N34° 36.262'	W84° 39.369'
34	PVC pup tent	8	6/2005	N34° 37.511'	W84° 39.339'
35	PVC pup tent	9	6/2005	N34° 36.809'	W84° 38.281'
36	PVC trees	26	8/2005	N34° 37.115'	W84° 36.816'
37	Plastic pallet stacks	8	1/2006	N34° 37.850'	W84° 37.649'
38	Plastic pallet stacks	19	2/2006	N34° 35.822'	W84° 38.515'
39	Plastic pallet stacks	13	5/2006	N34° 36.020'	W84° 37.447'
40	Plastic pallet stacks	21	5/2006	N34° 36.313'	W84° 39.264'
41	Plastic pallet stacks	11	6/2006	N34° 36.243'	W84° 37.831'
42	Plastic Pallets + PVC trees	20,33	10/2007	N34° 36671'	W84° 39.188'
43	Plastic pallet pyramids	38	1/2010	N34° 36.231'	W84° 38.658'
44	Plastic Pallet Tents	40	1/2010	N34° 36.461'	W84° 38.507'
45	PVC trees	75	1/2010	N34° 37.219'	W84° 40.145'