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CORPS BANS TUBE KITING ON ITS WATERS IN THE SOUTHEAST

Mobile, Alabama — Effective immediately the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, is banning Tube Kiting on all waters under its jurisdiction in the southeast.

Tube kiting is a new form of extreme water sport that recently emerged in the region. The large inflatable kite tubes have a solid fabric floor that the rider stands on while being towed behind a boat. The front of the tube begins to lift into the air at speeds above 25 mph. As speed increases, the entire tube is lifted into the air like a kite with the rider on top. The lack of stability and control often results in the tube slamming hard into the water surface, overturning or throwing the rider.

“This product is described by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission as ‘extremely dangerous’ and nationally has already caused two deaths and numerous injuries, including one serious injury at Lake Lanier,” said E. Patrick Robbins. “The hazards and potential liabilities of allowing tube kiting on public waters outweigh the benefits of unrestricted use.”

Regional bans have also been imposed at other Corps lakes as well as some National Parks.

Mobile District Rivers and Lakes Banning Tube Kiting

ALLATOONA LAKE, GA

LAKE SIDNEY LANIER, GA

ALABAMA RIVER LAKES, AL

OKATIBBEE LAKE, MS

BLACK WARRIOR & TOMBIGBEE RIVER LAKES, AL

WALTER F. GEORGE LAKE, AL & GA

CARTERS LAKE, GA

WEST POINT LAKE, AL & GA

TENNESSEE-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY, AL & MS

LAKE SEMINOLE GA & FL