

## Lakes to Refill

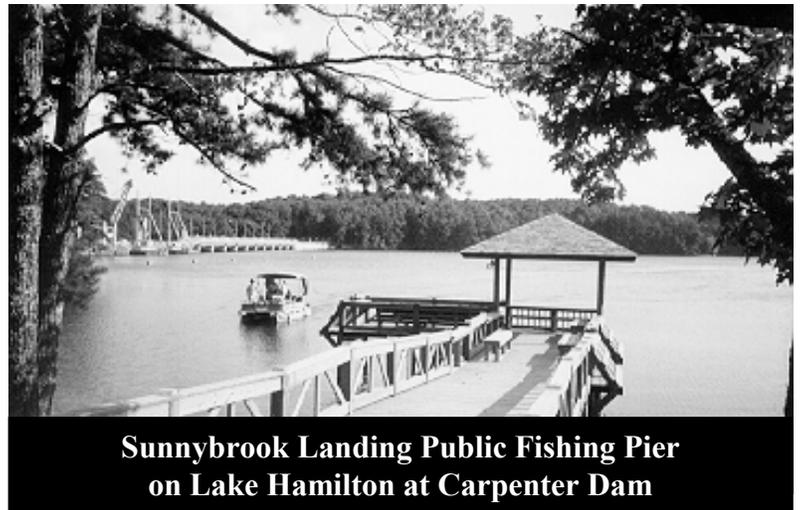
The annual drawdown of Lakes Hamilton and Catherine will soon be over. Spring refills begin March 9 for both Lakes Hamilton and Catherine. This year's drawdown for both lakes was only three feet. The lakes are expected to be back to their normal level by March 15. Dock owners should take the necessary precautions to ensure that their docks are able to adjust to the change in water levels.

The annual winter drawdown is done to allow property owners to perform certain permitted shoreline construction and maintenance activities and as a tool to manage nuisance aquatic vegetation. The last few winter drawdowns have been greater in an effort to reduce nuisance aquatic vegetation in the lakes. Though this year's drawdown was only three feet, research has suggested that varying the depth of drawdowns each year helps reduce the potential of any one species of vegetation from building up a resistance to the use of drawdowns as a control measure.

Due to the nature of the lakes and the characteristics of certain types of vegetation, total eradication of nuisance aquatic vegetation in the lakes is unlikely. It is anticipated that the growth of two specific types of vegetation in the lakes, watermilfoil and southern naiad, will increase in future years. Some isolated areas of Lake Hamilton where the lakebed did not freeze during last winter's nine-foot drawdown are already experiencing an increase in watermilfoil.

Entergy's primary tool in reducing the lake's nuisance vegetation is the use of winter drawdowns. Future drawdowns as much as nine feet may be needed to curtail this growth. Entergy and the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission will continue their monitoring program on both Lakes Hamilton and Catherine and will coordinate future drawdowns and the AGFC's grass carp stocking for vegetation management based on annual monitoring results.

For more information concerning the annual drawdown or to obtain a copy of Entergy's Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation Plan for Lakes Hamilton and Catherine, call Entergy's Hydro Operations Office at 501-844-2148.



**Sunnybrook Landing Public Fishing Pier  
on Lake Hamilton at Carpenter Dam**



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Entergy Hydro Operations now has a web site where you can obtain information about the lakes and related issues. You can learn more about the operation of Lakes Hamilton and Catherine, Rimmel and Carpenter Dams, as well as download boat dock permit instructions, and subscribe to our E-mail water release updates. Check us out at [www.energy.com/hydro](http://www.energy.com/hydro).

As a public service to the recreational users of Lakes Hamilton and Catherine and the Ouachita River below Rimmel Dam, Entergy Hydro Operations periodically issues an E-mail of the current operational plans for Carpenter and Rimmel Dams. This short E-mail provides general guidance on when we plan to release water from the dams, which affects both the levels of the river below the dams and, to a lesser extent, the levels of the lakes. This information can be useful in planning recreational outings for fishing and floating downstream. This E-mail is typically issued once each week or more often if conditions change (less often if conditions have not changed).

If you would like to be on the distribution list for this e-mail service, simply follow the instructions in the box to the right. Your E-mail ID will not be distributed to anyone, sold or used in any way for any other purpose. This is an automated process and you can subscribe and signoff at any time.

## Entergy's Hydro Operations E-Mail Service



### To add your name to the list:

1. Send an e-Mail to [listserv@energy.com](mailto:listserv@energy.com)
2. In the body of your e-Mail type:  
SUBSCRIBE eho-1 *Your Name*

*"Your Name"* should be the name you want associated with this e-Mail. Also note that eho-1 is an "L" not a "one".

The list server should immediately reply with an e-Mail to you. You will have to reply to the e-Mail with "OK" as the body of the reply.

Shortly, you will start getting updates on water release plans sent right to your E-mail box.

If you have any questions or want to provide any feedback on the content of this e-Mail service, feel free to E-mail Ted Smethers at [tsmethe@energy.com](mailto:tsmethe@energy.com)

## Lake Hamilton Anglers



To obtain data for a fish study, several hundred largemouth bass have been tagged by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission (AGFC) with fluorescent orange cinch tags below the dorsal (back) fin and released into Lake Hamilton. Some of the largemouth bass have been double-tagged. Both tags are eligible for reward money.

Anglers who catch any of these tagged bass and return the tag to the AGFC will receive a reward of either \$10 or \$50 depending on the value on the tag. Call either the number on the tag or call 1-877-525-8606 toll free to find the value and how to claim the money.

To be eligible, anglers must provide the AGFC with the tag (or tags) from the individual fish plus a completed **tag report card**. Tag report cards will be readily available at any marina around Lake Hamilton as well as most local bait shops. Or you can call the toll free number above and a form will be mailed to you. Please send the tag (or tags) and the completed tag report card to the address on the card. Tags can be redeemed from through October 2002.

**Important:** Tags should be clipped off, not pulled from any fish you choose to live release.

# Cold Water Dangers and Survival Tips



With winter weather upon us, Entergy is warning boaters that cold water can kill and that many drowning deaths are caused by hypothermia - abnormally low body temperature - not by water in the lungs. "Cold water robs the body of heat 25-30 times faster than air," said Bobby Pharr, Lakes & Property Coordinator for Entergy. "When someone falls overboard, their core temperature begins to drop within 10-15 minutes. And the water doesn't have to be icy - it just has to be colder than you are to cause hypothermia," Pharr said.

Wearing a life jacket adds to survival time in the water, not only by minimizing motion needed to keep afloat, but also by helping insulate the body. The more energy someone spends after going overboard, the more quickly his or her body temperature drops.

Boaters should pay extra attention to dressing warmly on cold days since wind can also rob you of heat. "If you suddenly find yourself in the water, don't panic as flailing around will only cause your body to lose heat more quickly," he says.

Boaters need to protect the head, neck, side of the chest and groin, those body "hot spots" that lose heat most quickly.

## REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING:

- Don't take off your clothes. Instead, button, buckle, zip and tighten collars, cuffs, shoes and hoods. If possible, cover your head - in cold water about half of heat loss comes from the head.
- Devote all your efforts to getting out of the water. Act quickly before you lose full use of your hands, arms and legs. Board a boat, raft, or anything floating. Most boats will support you even when full of water. If you can't right the boat, climb on top of it.
- Don't try to swim, unless it is to reach a nearby boat, another person or a floating object you can climb or lean on. Even if it's painful, remain as still as possible. Intense shivering and severe pain in cold water are natural body reflexes. These will not kill you, but heat loss will.
- If you're with other people, huddle together for warmth. Otherwise, hold your knees to your chest to protect your trunk from heat loss, and clasp your arms around your calves.

For more information on about preventing and treating hypothermia, as well as other boating safety tips visit: <http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/>, <http://www.watersafetycongress.org/>, [http://www.uscgboating.org/links/links\\_default.asp](http://www.uscgboating.org/links/links_default.asp).

# Shoreline Construction Permitting

**Permits must be obtained from Entergy for any construction or placement of private facilities on the lake or shoreline.** This includes, but is not limited to, docks, piers, walkways, landings, embankments, bulkheads, seawalls, boat ramps and dredging and filling operations. Relocation, replacement, enlargement, or significant alteration of existing facilities also requires a new permit from Entergy.

The construction of seawalls, embankments, bulkheads, boat ramps, and dredging separations are only allowed during the annual winter drawdown. Permit regulations and requirements are subject to change. Be sure to obtain the latest "Applicant Information" booklet before submitting an application.

Application and booklets are available by calling Entergy's Hydro Operations at (501) 844-2148 or at [www.entergy.com/hydro](http://www.entergy.com/hydro).



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# Safety Tips:

- ✓ Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio for your home and a portable type for your boat. In the event of severe weather or flooding, an alarm will sound and the radio will inform you of any impending hazard.
- ✓ Wear a life jacket.
- ✓ More accidental drownings occur while swimming than during any other water-related activity.
- ✓ Never swim alone. Use the buddy system.
- ✓ You can save a drowning person. Remember the phrase "Reach, Throw, Row".
- ✓ Never dive into waters of unknown depth. Check before you dive. Every year in diving accidents more than 8,000 people suffer paralyzing spinal cord injuries and another 5,000 die before they reach the hospital.
- ✓ Learn to swim.
- ✓ Navigational lights on boats must be turned on when operating at night. Boating at night without lights is as dangerous as driving a car at night without lights.
- ✓ REMEMBER, 5 mph within 100 feet of a designated recreation area, dock, pier, raft, float, anchored boat, dam, intake structure, or other obstructions. It's the LAW.
- ✓ Alcohol and water don't mix. More than half of all the people that drown had consumed alcohol prior to their accident.
- ✓ SLOW DOWN AROUND DOCKS! Respect the rights of others while boating.

## Do you know of lakefront property owners who are not receiving this publication?

Send their names and address to:  
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