



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Mobile District

Project News at West Point

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West Point Project: <http://westpt.sam.usace.army.mil/>

West Point Lake Permits Discarded Christmas Trees to Be Used as Fish Attractors

Mobile, Ala.- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, West Point Project Management Office often receives numerous inquires each December regarding the use of discarded Christmas trees as fish attractors. For years, fishermen have anchored these discarded trees in strategic locations in the lake to provide cover for fish. Then, when the weather improves in the spring, they return to try their luck fishing around last year's Christmas trees.

The Corps of Engineers at West Point Project would like to inform all prospective fish reef builders that no special permit is necessary to place a few Christmas trees in the lake but there are some important guidelines to follow:

- Use a suitable anchoring system to prevent the trees from floating away or moving around. A cement block will work well as an anchor for one or two trees, but it must be securely fastened to the tree(s) using nylon twine or a similar material.
- Don't place trees where they could become safety hazards to boaters or swimmers. For example, trees should not be placed near boat launching ramps, in shallow boat traffic channels, or at swimming beaches.

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- Trees will attract more fish if they are placed in deeper water, say 15 - 20 feet deep, and in an area where the water depth changes significantly, such as near an underwater ridge or hump. Fish tend to use this type of area throughout the year.

Although a permit is not necessary to place a few Christmas trees in the lake, anglers who wish to install large numbers of trees or other types of structure for fishing reefs should contact the West Point Project Management Office at 706-645-2937. Please visit <http://westpt.sam.usace.army.mil> for more information on West Point Project.