

Lake Martin 2021 Drawdown Fact Sheet

Background:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license to operate Martin Dam and Lake Martin was renewed in 2015. The updated license requires Alabama Power once every six years to lower the winter operating water level three feet below the normal level of 484 feet to provide residents and property owners increased lakebed access for projects and maintenance

Beginning Sept. 2, the water level at Lake Martin will be gradually lowered from its 491-foot summer operating level to near 481 feet by Dec. 31, where it will remain until Feb. 17, 2022. Lake levels will then slowly rise back toward summer levels.

Martin Dam Facts:

- In operation since 1926.
- Four units, generating a total of 182 megawatts (MW).
- 168 feet tall, 2,000 feet long.

Talking Points:

- Lake Martin's water level will be three feet lower than its normal winter operating level from Dec. 31, 2021 to Feb. 17, 2022 to provide residents and property owners increased lakebed access for construction projects and shoreline structure maintenance.
- This type of drawdown occurs every six years, as required by the FERC license.
- We encourage residents interested in performing shoreline maintenance during this drawdown to begin securing the necessary permits.
- Residents can secure permits by visiting apcshorelines.com/permits or by calling the local Shoreline Management Office at 256-825-0053.
- The annual drawdown of water levels on Lake Martin will begin Sept. 2 unless operational conditions allow for the fall extension through Oct. 15.
- We encourage people with boats and other water-related equipment and facilities to pay close attention to changing conditions on the lake, remain mindful of personal safety and be prepared to take the necessary steps to protect their property.