

# 2023 Lake Alerts

## October 27, 2023 Lake Alert: Lower Lake Levels and Planned Drawdown Process

Spartanburg Water's commitment to watershed maintenance is a critical component of our mission to preserve and maintain the reservoirs and rivers that supply our drinking water. Our watershed management strategy includes a wide variety of routine maintenance and monitoring activities, and this year we will again attempt an annual lowering of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock as part of this strategy.

With the current low levels of precipitation, the drawdown of the reservoirs has begun naturally. Beginning December 1 and lasting through February 2024, we will try to bring both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock down approximately 2.5 – 3 ft. in total. This will be dependent on weather, however, as higher levels of rain can make it difficult to achieve lower lake levels.

As the lake levels begin to fall, please plan to remove boats from boat lifts. For additional safety, we will have strategically placed, bright yellow warning buoys at certain intervals from shore to note potential shallow water hazards.

In the coming days please look for a letter from us with similar details, as well as a sheet of "Frequently Asked Questions."

Our team is committed to keeping you informed, and we appreciate your partnership and support as we move forward with this process.

## September 1, 2023 Lake Alert: Important Labor Day Reminders

With the "end" of summer celebration this Labor Day weekend, we wanted to share a few friendly reminders with our watercraft permit holders.

Display Watercraft Permits – If you have purchased a watercraft permit for the 2023-24 boating season, please make sure it is displayed properly on your vessel. You can find directions for proper placement [HERE](#).

Safety First! Before heading out on the water, please remember these important safety tips:

- Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Check the weather.
- Ensure your watercraft is in good working order. Always do a test run before you go out on the lake, and ask any of our wardens to help you do a safety check.
- SCDNR will be available on Sunday, September 3, from 10 a.m. – Noon to provide a safety check at Lake Bowen Park.

Be sure you have the following available on your watercraft:

Life Jackets – enough for each passenger, U.S. Coast Guard approved and in good condition. Life Jackets only work if you wear them, so be sure to keep a properly fitting floatation device on at all times when you are on the water.

- USCG approved Type IV Retrievable floatation device – For watercraft greater than 16'.
- Fire extinguisher – required by law, for gas powered watercraft.
- Navigation lights – on between official sunset and sunrise.
- Sound device – horn, air horn, or whistle.

And if you ever have any questions, please reach out to our watershed staff. They are more than happy to assist! Lake Bowen Wardens' Office: 864-592-2240, Lake Blalock Wardens' Office: 864-578-5442.

## August 28, 2023 Lake Alert: One-Day Traffic Change at Lake Bowen Park – August 30

On Wednesday, August 30, the portion of the roadway beginning at the entrance to the peninsula, to our non-powered boat ramp at Lake Bowen Park will be closed to thru-traffic as we continue our shoreline stabilization project.

The Anchor Park playground will still be accessible, as well as our restroom facilities. For those who wish to park around the peninsula, we will allow traffic flow the “wrong way” on the peninsula, in order to access the available parking spaces.

We anticipate the road closure to last for just one day, dependent on weather.

If you have any questions, please reach out to our Lake Bowen Wardens’ Office: 864-592-2240 or e-mail [healthylakes@spartanburgwater.org](mailto:healthylakes@spartanburgwater.org).

Thank you for your patience as we make these important and exciting improvements to our Lake Bowen Park.

### **June 2, 2023 Lake Alert: Shoreline Stabilization Project**

Spartanburg Water will begin the first phase of a multi-phase project to stabilize the shoreline along Lake Bowen at Lake Bowen Park the first week of June.

Using native plant species, the project will address shoreline erosion and impervious surface run-off that can negatively impact Lake Bowen as a drinking water reservoir. The Lake Bowen Park will remain open throughout the project, which is expected to last through August. Monday through Friday, some parking spaces in the peninsula loop will be blocked off, but will re-open on weekends.

Residents with questions are invited to reach out to the Spartanburg Water watershed staff and lake wardens at the Lake Bowen Park office – (864) 592-2240.

This project is part of a 319 Grant awarded by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).

319 Grants are awarded to fund projects that are intended to help reduce pollutants in an area of a watershed that will help lead to measurable water quality improvements. The grants are funded from an annual grant allocation from the EPA under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

To learn more about the project, please visit our website.

### **May 25, 2023 Lake Alert: Memorial Day Weekend Reminders**

With the “official” start to the summer boating season beginning this Memorial Day weekend, we wanted to share a few friendly reminders with our watercraft permit holders.

Display Watercraft Permits – If you have purchased a watercraft permit for the 2023-24 boating season, please make sure it is displayed properly on your vessel. You can find directions for proper placement [HERE](#).

If you haven’t purchased a permit for either your powered or non-powered watercraft to use for Lake Bowen and/or Lake Blalock, please visit our Lake Bowen or Lake Blalock Wardens’ office to purchase. A listing of associated permit prices can be found on our [WEBSITE](#). (Please note that permits for non-motorized watercraft (i.e. kayaks and paddleboards) are a \$25, one-time fee that do not require renewal with each boating season.)

Safety First! Before heading out on the water, please remember these important safety tips:

1. Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
2. Check the weather.
3. Ensure your watercraft is in good working order. Always do a test run before you go out on the lake, and ask any of our wardens to help you do a safety check.

Be sure you have the following available on your watercraft:

- Life Jackets – enough for each passenger, U.S. Coast Guard approved and in good condition. Life Jackets only work if you wear them, so be sure to keep a properly fitting floatation device on at all times when you are on the water.
- USCG approved Type IV Retrievable floatation device – For watercraft greater than 16’.
- Fire extinguisher – required by law, for gas powered watercraft.
- Navigation lights – on between official sunset and sunrise.
- Sound device – horn, air horn, or whistle.

### **May 22, 2023 Lake Alert: Natural Fish Losses from Columnaris**

In our most recent Lake Alert that we sent on May 16, we shared a link to a document that discussed how fish losses can occur naturally in reservoirs. Last week we began observing a number of fish, primarily Bluegills (Bream), either deceased or in obvious signs of distress in Lake Blalock and Lake Bowen. Area fishermen also noticed and shared this information with us. As with all losses of fish in our reservoirs, our watershed team alerted the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).

In an effort to determine the exact cause of the fish loss we took the initiative to send several specimens to the Alabama Fish Farming Center at Auburn University who completed diagnostic laboratory testing on the fish. We received the results back today that showed that the cause of this recent fish loss was due to infection of the fish by *Flavobacterium covae* bacteria, resulting in a type of fish disease called Columnaris – commonly referred to as Saddleback disease. Columnaris is naturally occurring, originating from a very common type of bacteria that often spreads quickly among fish during times of stress – particularly during the spawning season that just concluded. To learn more about Columnaris, please view an informative Q & A document we created.

I hope you find this information helpful, and appreciate your continued partnership as we work together to ensure our reservoirs are not only a great source of drinking water, but a healthy environment for fish and other aquatic life as well as recreational activities. Please continue to feel free to reach out.

### **May 12, 2023 Lake Alert: CEO Guy Boyle Re: Upcoming Algaecide Treatment Beginning May 17**

We are still waiting to hear the results of the report compiled by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) regarding the loss of shad that occurred at Lake Bowen on March 30. Once we have these details, as well as any details from the catfish losses that occurred during the second week of April, we will share the information with you.

Our detailed weekly water quality testing continues to show elevated levels of Geosmin in our drinking water reservoirs. Geosmin, though harmless, is a byproduct of increased algae growth that can lead to taste and odor concerns with our finished drinking water. At this time, the levels of this Geosmin byproduct that we have been monitoring require us to intervene and utilize algaecide applications in specific areas of both Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1. The treatments will begin this coming Wednesday, May 17.

The chelated copper algaecide prescription that we normally use for algaecide applications, and that was used on March 30, is considered safe, effective and is approved by the EPA for use in drinking water. However, with this application we will be using another EPA regulated algaecide treatment that does not utilize chelated copper. The application will utilize a hydrogen peroxide base to remove algae. This algaecide product will be applied in a targeted area of Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1. Hydrogen peroxide applications are not as effective as chelated copper in addressing algae growth, but have a shorter shelf life, so we are hopeful the the application greatly reduces the potential risk of any additional losses of fish.

As with every algaecide application applied, we have contacted SCDNR and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to inform both agencies of our intent to apply this round of treatment.

We understand that an additional algaecide application so close behind one that resulted in a fish loss can be concerning. Serving as stewards of our natural environment and the drinking water source for more than 200,000 customers can be a very difficult and challenging balancing act, but any action to perform treatments is well thought out prior to any application. I am confident in our team’s ability to make the right decisions that protect our drinking water and the natural environment, and I fully support this team of professionals who are making every effort to protect and to provide clean, safe drinking water.

Thank you for your continued trust and support as we work to ensure continued access for our community to high quality drinking water services. Please continue to feel free to reach out at any time.

**Friday, April 28, 2023: Elevated Lake Levels**

With the recent rainfall, both Lake Blalock and Lake Bowen are currently over full pool. Please exercise caution when using watercraft, since there may be more floating debris.

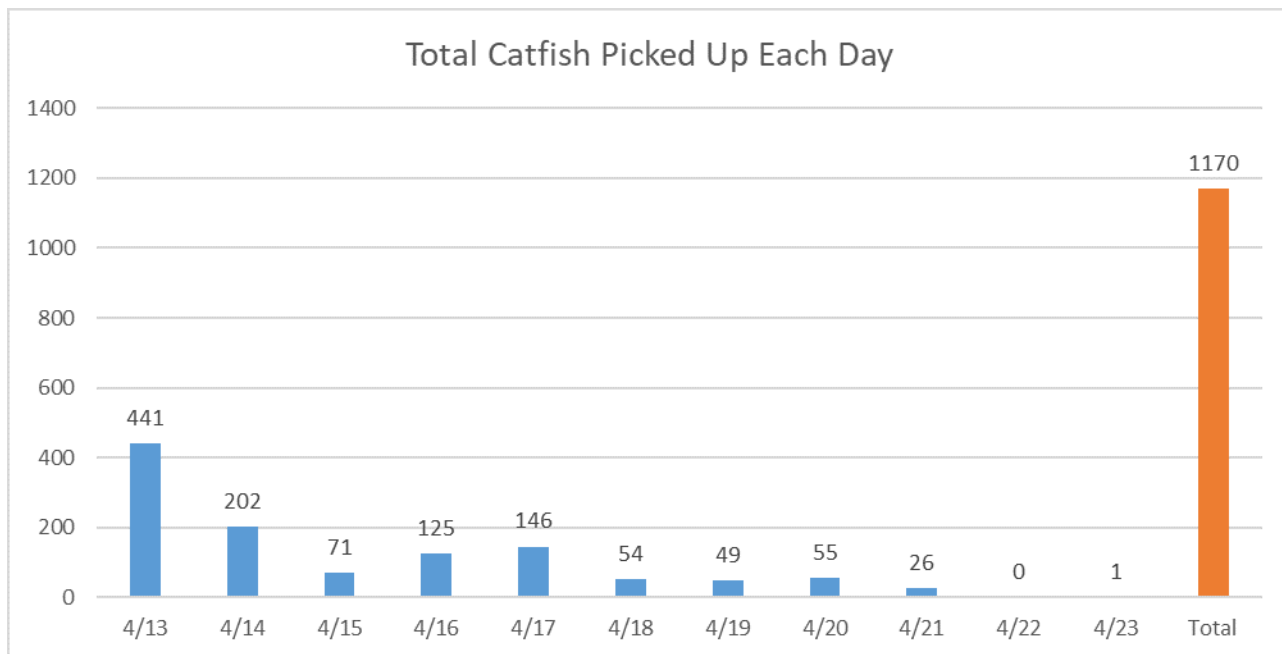
As with all rain events, with elevated lake levels and due to the risk of higher streamflows, we recommend ensuring your boat is well secured – either to your dock or elevated and secured to your boatlift.

**April 24, 2023, Lake Alert: Current Update on Catfish Loss and Clean-Up on Lake Bowen**

Our watershed staff continues to patrol Lake Bowen to document any remaining catfish losses and collect them from the shoreline and impacted areas. We continue to provide ongoing communication with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

Since our last communication regarding the numbers of catfish picked up each day, beginning April 13, we are very glad to say that it appears this catfish loss event may be ending. On both Saturday, April 22, and Sunday, April 23, our watershed staff picked up only one catfish during their patrol, which was in an advanced state of decomposition.

Please see below for an updated graph showing the total number of catfish picked up each day, along with the total number.



We are still awaiting the details of the laboratory studies performed to try to determine the exact cause of the catfish losses, and will communicate the results with you as soon as we hear from these experts.

**April 18, 2023, Lake Alert: Eating Fish Caught in Local Bodies of Water**

With our recent catfish losses in Lake Bowen, I have received some questions related to the safety of eating fish caught in the lake.

As with all state-wide health and environmental regulations and guidance, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) provides regular oversight of bodies of water, and through their Bureau of Water and Aquatic Science Program, they maintain up-to-date Fish Consumption Advisories: <https://scdhec.gov/bow/aquatic-science-programs/fish-consumption-advisories>

With these advisories, they also maintain a list of waterbodies across the state that have no advisories, and where they note you can “eat as many fish as you would like” - <https://scdhec.gov/bow/aquatic-science-programs/fish-consumption-advisories/waterbodies-no-advisories>

Both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock are included in this list of waterbodies without advisories. Municipal Reservoir #1, though fishing on the shoreline does occur, SCDHEC does not include it on this list or consider it a recreational body of water, as no public fishing or boating is allowed.

As a fishing enthusiast myself, I have enjoyed having the opportunity to begin experiencing fishing in our Spartanburg Water reservoirs, and also the fish dinners that have resulted for myself and my family. I am confident in the health and safety of our reservoirs and resident fish, and look to our very capable team at Spartanburg Water to maintain this and our strong partnerships with SCDNR and SCDHEC.

#### **April 13, 2023, Lake Alert: Update on Catfish Removal on Lake Bowen**

We received notification from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) this afternoon giving us permission to begin the process of cleaning up the catfish from the recent loss event.

Starting today and working through the day tomorrow, our watershed team will work to collect the catfish from the shoreline and impacted areas of Lake Bowen.

Over the coming days, our watershed team will continue to monitor the situation at Lake Bowen on a daily basis, and will address any additional catfish loss as needed – providing ongoing communication with SCDNR.

Our entire Spartanburg Water team is committed to the health and well-being of our drinking water reservoirs, and we will continue to regularly communicate news and updates as needed in a transparent and open manner. Your trust in us as both a drinking water provider and community partner is not something we take lightly.

#### **April 13, 2023, Lake Alert: Update on Catfish Loss and Clean-Up on Lake Bowen**

We received notification from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) this afternoon giving us permission to begin the process of cleaning up the catfish from the recent loss event.

Starting today and working through the day tomorrow, our watershed team will work to collect the catfish from the shoreline and impacted areas of Lake Bowen.

Over the coming days, our watershed team will continue to monitor the situation at Lake Bowen on a daily basis, and will address any additional catfish loss as needed – providing ongoing communication with SCDNR.

Our entire Spartanburg Water team is committed to the health and well-being of our drinking water reservoirs, and we will continue to regularly communicate news and updates as needed in a transparent and open manner. Your trust in us as both a drinking water provider and community partner is not something we take lightly.

#### **April 12, 2023, Lake Alert: Update on Catfish Loss on Lake Bowen**

It came to our attention Tuesday, April 11, that catfish had begun floating to the surface on Lake Bowen in relatively small numbers and in a confined area of the lake. We immediately contacted the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for their guidance with this most recent event. However, on the morning of April 12, while staff continued to patrol the lake, we observed that additional catfish loss had occurred and reached back out to SCDNR.

SCDNR team members spent the afternoon of April 12 performing an investigation on the lake, supported by our lake wardens and Spartanburg Water boats as requested. Following their investigation, SCDNR shared that they believed the recent catfish loss is a result of the algaecide application that was performed on March 30.

Though it is troubling to have additional fish losses attributed to the recent algaecide application, I remain confident in the health and safety of our reservoirs, and as much, in the safety and quality of the drinking water we provide.

Our watershed and laboratory staff sample numerous sites throughout our reservoirs, and perform thousands of analyses each year. In addition to our widespread sampling sites, the water entering our drinking water treatment plant and entering the distribution system is tested daily – 365 days a year. All of our testing is also regularly reported each month to SCDHEC as the regulatory and oversight agency in our state, directed by the EPA. Each year, the multitude of data that is collected and provided to SCDHEC is provided to the public in the form of our Consumer Confidence Report/Water Quality Report which can be found at <https://www.spartanburgwater.org/waterqualityreports>. The 2022 report will be released in June.

For nearly 100 years, Spartanburg Water has provided our community's residents with safe and reliable drinking water services. I am confident in our team and our continued ability to provide the very best drinking water resources for our community now and in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and confidence in our team and the essential services we provide.

#### **April 12, 2023, Lake Alert: Recent Catfish Loss on Lake Bowen**

It came to our attention Tuesday, April 11, that catfish had begun floating to the surface on Lake Bowen in relatively small numbers and in a confined area of the lake. We immediately contacted the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for their guidance with this most recent event.

This morning, while staff continued to patrol the lake, we observed that additional catfish loss had occurred. This recent event appears to have impacted only catfish and at this time there is no visual indication that any other species of fish are affected.

Spartanburg Water has requested that SCDNR perform an investigation into the cause of the fish loss.

Representatives from SCDNR are currently on site at Lake Bowen, and have requested the assistance of our Spartanburg Water Lake Wardens to transport SCDNR team members in our boats. SCDNR staff will be performing their investigation in the area where the negative impact occurred in order to try to determine if a natural or man-made event negatively impacted the fish.

There have been no additional algaecide treatments performed on Lake Bowen since Thursday March 30 and none are currently planned. Our team will continue to monitor the situation and communicate with SCDNR accordingly.

We remain committed to the health and wellbeing of our reservoirs, and to providing safe and reliable drinking water services to our community.

### **April 7 Lake Alert: Blalock POA to Host Litter Clean-Up Around Lake Blalock on Earth Day**

The Blalock Lake Property Owners Association Friends of Lake Blalock will host their Spring Lake Clean-Up on Earth Day, April 22, from 8 a.m. - Noon. Supplies will be available at the Lake Blalock Park and Boat Landing, with lunch served in a picnic pavilion afterward.

Spartanburg Water will provide supplies and a pizza lunch for all who attend.

For more information and to sign-up, please contact Alik Malikov at [alikalix@me.com](mailto:alikalix@me.com).

### **April 1, 2023, Lake Alert: Important Update Regarding Fish Loss on Lake Bowen**

We wanted to share an update with you regarding the recent fish loss in areas of Lake Bowen. Yesterday afternoon, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) performed a thorough field assessment of the areas impacted.

Their team of biologists will compile a report within a 30-day timeframe to present to the SCDNR Board. Once the board accepts the report it will be available for release to the public. Based on SCDNR protocols there is no release of information from SCDNR to Spartanburg Water, so we will be awaiting the findings as well from SCDNR.

We were informed following the completion of their fieldwork that SCDNR has released the impacted areas back to Spartanburg Water to perform any clean-up as necessary. We are currently working on a plan to address the logistics of the cleanup over the next 48-72 hours.

Our Director of Drinking Water Services, Ken Tuck, met yesterday evening with leadership from Jones Fish Hatcheries & Dist., LLC – the algaecide applicator who performed the most recent algaecide application on Lake Bowen. Their team is committed to removing the deceased fish from the impacted areas of the lake, and cleaning up the shoreline.

The Jones Fish Hatcheries & Dist. team will be on site at Lake Bowen at first light on Monday, April 3, to begin the clean-up process. They plan to work all day Monday, as well as part of Tuesday, April 4, to ensure that the areas of the lake affected by the recent fish loss are cleaned to the satisfaction of Spartanburg Water and our neighbors around the lake.

We understand that this recent fish loss incident is concerning, but our entire Spartanburg Water team remains committed to sharing up-to-date and factual information with you as we move forward.

### **March 31, 2023, Lake Alert: Update: Fish Loss on Lake Bowen**

As we previously shared with you, our watershed team observed fish losses in isolated locations on Lake Bowen yesterday afternoon following the completion of an algaecide application that was initiated to manage algae and Geosmin levels that were rising in Lake Bowen.

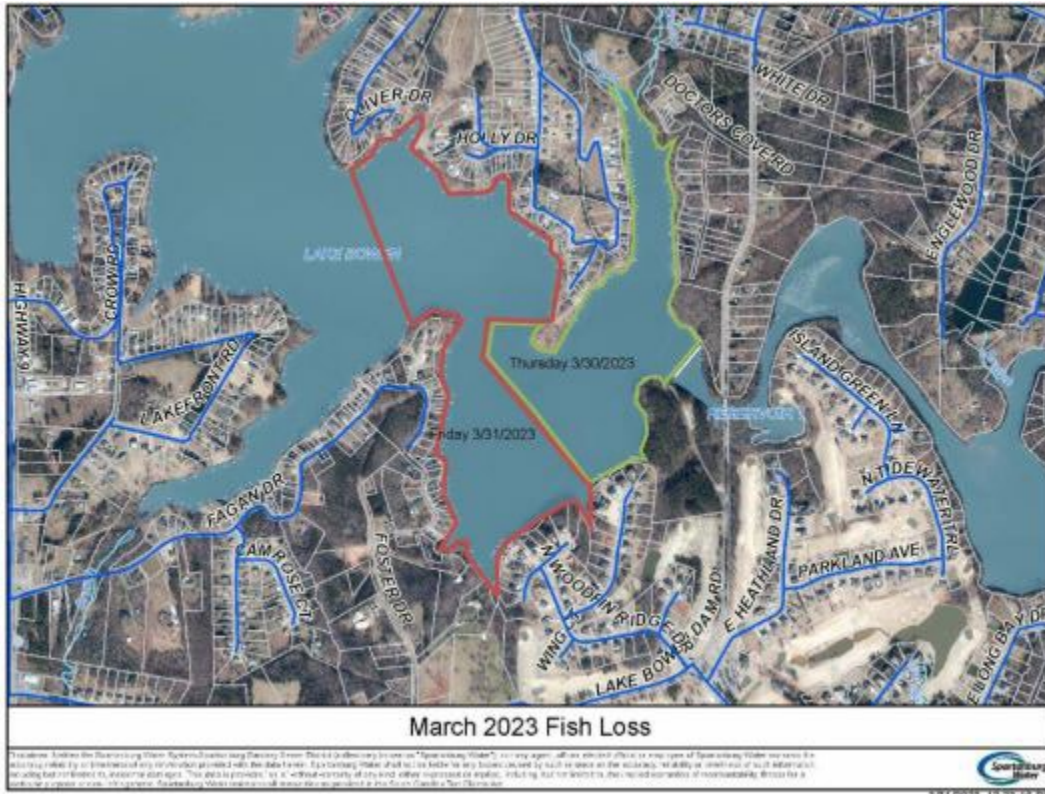
Our watershed team has been on Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1 since early this morning to continue the process of identifying specific areas of impact. As of this time, we have not found there to be an expanded area of concern. The fish loss we are observing remains the small, 1" – 2" Shad species of fish, and there are no current signs that larger game fish or other wildlife have been negatively impacted.

Please see enclosed map showing the impacted areas in green and red. The green area is where the concentration of Shad loss appears to have occurred.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) has been on the lake with us all morning and early afternoon. We are working with them, and will continue to assess the situation and share information, while continuing to look to SCDNR for guidance throughout this process.

While any loss of wildlife is concerning, we do maintain that algaecide treatments are a safe and effective method for us to maintain the quality of our drinking water reservoirs. Algaecide treatments are always conducted by a professional algaecide firm, with input from third party consultants and Spartanburg Water staff. Our CEO, Guy Boyle and all of our

staff remain committed to sharing factual information as we are updated throughout this process.



### **March 30, 2023, Lake Alert: Important Notice: Fish Loss Observed on Lake Bowen**

Our watershed team has observed some fish loss today in a section of Lake Bowen, following the most recent algaecide application. We understand that this may be concerning, however, what we have been able to visually confirm this evening: it is isolated to two smaller coves of the lake near the Bowen dam and the fish affected are primarily 1” and 2” shad. Our algaecide treatments remain a safe and effective method for us to maintain the quality of our drinking water reservoirs.

Algaecide treatments are conducted by a professional algaecide firm with input from third party consultants and Spartanburg Water. We have been working with South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and will provide more information as it becomes available.

### **March 28, 2023, Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen to Begin March 29**

Spartanburg Water plans to perform a strategic and targeted algaecide application beginning Wednesday, March 29, on portions of Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator. The application will take place over 2 – 3 days, dependent on weather conditions.

The application targets the specific areas identified through our ongoing reservoir monitoring strategy. As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to manage algae growth in our drinking water reservoirs to ensure the highest quality drinking water for our community.



**February 20, 2023, Lake Alert:**

**Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen to Begin February 21**

Spartanburg Water plans to perform a strategic and targeted algaecide application beginning Tuesday, February 21, on Municipal Reservoir #1 and a portion of Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator. The application will likely be completed by Thursday, February 23, dependent on weather conditions. The application targets those areas identified through our ongoing reservoir monitoring strategy.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to manage algae growth in our drinking water reservoirs to ensure the highest quality drinking water for our community.

**February 17, 2023, Lake Alert: Lake Drawdown Process to End at Lake Bowen**

Beginning today, the process to lower the water level in the Lake Bowen reservoir by approximately 3 ft., will end. This is several weeks earlier than originally communicated. We are taking a very proactive approach to help mitigate an increase we are seeing in Geosmin, a harmless byproduct of algae growth, but one that can cause changes in the taste and odor of drinking water.

We will maintain Lake Blalock at a lower level through the end of this month, as originally planned. By controlling algae growth in our drinking water reservoirs, we can continue to ensure our community has access to the highest quality drinking water.

**January 25, 2023 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 Planned for January 27**

Spartanburg Water plans to perform a strategic and targeted algaecide application beginning Friday, January 27, on Municipal Reservoir #1 with a licensed commercial applicator. The application will likely be completed within one day, dependent on weather conditions. The application targets those areas identified through our ongoing reservoir monitoring strategy.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our drinking water reservoirs to ensure the highest quality drinking water for our community.

**January 16, 2023 Lake Alert: Anchor Park at Lake Bowen closed Tuesday, Jan. 17 and Wednesday, Jan. 18**

Anchor Park at Lake Bowen will be closed for maintenance Tuesday, January 17, and Wednesday, January 18. We appreciate your patience while we continue to provide a safe, fun place to play for the children in our community. For more information, call the Lake Bowen Wardens' Office at 864-592-2240.

## **2022 Lake Alerts**

### **December 19 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1 Planned for December 20 and 21**

Spartanburg Water plans to perform a strategic and targeted algaecide application starting Tuesday, December 20, and ending Wednesday, December 21, to targeted areas on Lake Bowen and on Municipal Reservoir #1. The application by a licensed commercial applicator will likely be completed within two days. The application targets those areas identified through our ongoing monitoring strategy, and will take place dependent on the weather conditions.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure the highest quality drinking water for our community.

### **December 13 Lake Alert: Municipal Reservoir #1 – Commission Approves Rules and Regulations Document**

Spartanburg Water recently approved a set of Rules and Regulations that became effective on December 7, 2022, for the successful management of the reservoir and buffer area surrounding Municipal Reservoir #1.

Included are updates to specific landscaping activities now allowed with a permit, construction of a stationary 12 ft. x 18 ft. dock with permit, and adjoining property owners may now also utilize the entire buffer area that adjoins their property to fish with their family and friends, provided that state fishing licenses are obtained.

Though access for surface recreation and irrigation use were suggestions made by adjoining property owners, these activities will remain prohibited. This is to continue in our efforts to protect the health of the drinking water reservoir that is the source water for more than 200,000 customers, as well as the safety of our adjoining neighbors. Please remember that all activity in the buffer area requires that all the proper permitting is completed prior to any action taken by adjoining property owners.

We hope these outlined Rules and Regulations will be helpful for all of our adjoining neighbors on Municipal Reservoir #1. These Rules and Regulations will also continue to help our Spartanburg Water team provide our community with the highest quality drinking water services.

To review the Rules and Regulations document online and/or print, please visit:

<https://www.spartanburgwater.org/municipalreservoir1>. We will also have printed copies available at both the Lake Bowen office (8515 Hwy 9) and Lake Blalock office (1925 Sandy Ford Rd.) after December 16, 2022.

### **November 15 Lake Alert: Reminder – Please Remove Watercraft from Lifts**

We shared information previously about our lake drawdown process. With the rain we have received, our reservoirs are currently at full pool. We hope to continue moving forward with our drawdown plans to last through the end of February 2023.

We wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that now is a great time to remove any watercraft you have on lifts, with the current water levels. If we are successful in our drawdown attempt, watercraft that stay on lifts will have to remain until the water level increases following the end of the drawdown period in February.

### **October 21 Lake Alert: Lower Lake Levels and Planned Drawdown Process**

Spartanburg Water's commitment to watershed maintenance is a critical component of our mission to preserve and maintain the reservoirs and rivers that supply our drinking water. Our watershed management strategy includes a wide variety of routine maintenance and monitoring activities, but

beginning this year we hope to include the annual lowering of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock as part of this strategy.

Our initial plan was to begin the lowering of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock on December 1; however, with the current low levels of precipitation, the drawdown of the reservoirs has begun naturally. At this time, Municipal Reservoir #1 requires an additional flow of water in order to achieve optimum levels for drinking water operations and treatment.

For this reason, we are focusing on allowing more water from Lake Bowen to flow into Reservoir #1 as soon as possible, since this process does take time. With this movement of water, you will begin to see lower lake levels sooner than originally anticipated. We plan to make the overall drawdown of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock approximately 2.5 – 3 ft., with it lasting through the end of February 2023.

As the lake levels begin to fall, please plan to remove boats from boat lifts. For additional safety, we will have strategically placed, bright yellow warning buoys at certain intervals from shore to note potential shallow water hazards.

In the coming days please look for a letter from us with similar details, as well as a sheet of “Frequently Asked Questions.”

Our team is committed to keeping you informed, and we appreciate your partnership and support as we move forward with this process. As a Lake Alert subscriber, you will now have the option to also receive text message notifications in addition to an e-mail message. A separate e-mail will arrive in your inbox soon to allow you to request this option.

#### **October 7 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water Monitoring Lake Levels**

As many of you have probably observed recently, the lake levels on both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock are lower than full pool at this time. This is due in part to our proactive preparation for the rain event that was anticipated from Hurricane Ian, but that did not end up occurring. We are actively working to try to raise our lake levels, but with the current weaker stream flows and low levels of rain, this process is taking a longer period of time.

We appreciate your patience and support, and ask that you exercise caution and pay attention to water depth as you are using watercraft on the reservoirs.

#### **October 1 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Re-opening Saturday, October 1**

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas have re-opened for use today, Saturday, October 1.

September 29 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Closed Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will be closed all day tomorrow, Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1, in anticipation of the upcoming weather events.

Please refrain from using any watercraft on either lakes for safety concerns, and ensure your watercraft is properly secured.

### **September 27 Lake Alert: Spartanburg Water Proactively Preparing for Impending Rainfall**

In anticipation of the rainfall amounts forecasted for the next several days, Spartanburg Water is closely monitoring the weather and lake conditions, and is proactively making adjustments to the levels of Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock in order to help minimize increased water levels. Since our dams were created to hold water as a drinking water source, any release of water may be gradual.

As with all rain events, because the risk of higher streamflow's and elevated lake levels still remain, SWS recommends ensuring your boat is well-secured – either to your dock or elevated and secured to your boat lift. Please exercise caution in the days after any significant rainfall event, as there may be more floating debris.

### **September 26 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 Planned for September 28**

Spartanburg Water plans to perform a strategic and targeted algaecide application starting Wednesday, September 28, on Municipal Reservoir #1 with a licensed commercial applicator. The application will likely be completed within one day. The application targets those areas identified through our ongoing monitoring strategy, and will take place dependent on the weather conditions.

### **September 6 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen Planned for September 7-8**

Spartanburg Water plans to perform a strategic and targeted algaecide application starting tomorrow, Wednesday, September 7, on Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator. The application will likely span two days. The application targets those areas identified through our ongoing monitoring strategy, and will take place dependent on the weather conditions.

### **May 26 Lake Alerts: Getting Ready for the Holiday Weekend? – Some Reminders**

With Memorial Day Weekend kicking off the official start to summer boating season this weekend, we wanted to reach out with a few reminders:

If you are planning a trip to Lake Bowen, be sure to carpool! Our park has great amenities, but limited parking spaces. Share a ride with other members of your party to ensure you can secure a spot. Once the park is at capacity, we will have to turn away visitors until parking spaces are once again available.

Always remember safety first and make sure everyone has a properly fitting lifejacket when out on the water. If you need an extra lifejacket, check out our Lifejacket Loaner Boards at both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks.

Not sure if you have everything you need on board? Our Lake Wardens are more than happy to provide a safety inspection and suggestions to help keep you and your loved ones safe while having fun on the water.

We look forward to welcoming you this weekend at both Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock. Our Lake Wardens and Watershed Staff are always happy to answer any questions you may have – Lake Bowen (864) 592-2240, Lake Blalock (864) 578-5442; 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., seven-days-a-week.

### **May 25 Lake Alert: Tomorrow SCDNR Restocking Triploid Grass Carp in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1**

Tomorrow, May 26, 2022, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) will be conducting a maintenance restocking of sterile Triploid Grass Carp in Lake Bowen and Municipal Reservoir #1. This is strictly annual upkeep to account for the loss of carp from natural causes.

Triploid Grass Carp are certified by biologists as being sterile and cannot reproduce. They feed primarily on aquatic plants and algae and do not consume other fish. Grass Carp are an effective biological tool to control nuisance vegetation and algae. They are used around the world for this purpose, and are one of the approved methods used by SCDNR.

Please remember, it is illegal to take Triploid Grass Carp from public waters. If you hook one while fishing, you must release it back into the same body of water or risk facing penalties.

There are a few ways to tell the difference between the common carp and the stocked Triploid Grass Carp. The major difference is the length of the dorsal fin. The Triploid Grass Carp has a significantly shorter fin than the common carp. They also do not have barbels (“whiskers”) around the mouth.

We thank you in advance for being mindful of this and for helping us to maintain a beneficial population of Triploid Grass Carp.

### **May 1 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen Planned for May 2 and 3**

Spartanburg Water will perform a strategic and targeted algaecide application starting the afternoon of Monday, May 2, 2022, on Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator. Pending weather, water quality and environmental conditions, the application will take place over two days.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure quality drinking water for our community.

**April 1 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen Planned for April 3 and 4**

Spartanburg Water will be performing an algaecide application starting on Sunday, April 3, 2022, on Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator (pending weather, water quality and environmental conditions).

This is a maintenance application targeting some early season Geosmin producers that we have identified through our monitoring strategy.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure quality drinking water for our community.

**February 28 Lake Alert: Algaecide Treatment for Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen Planned for March 1**

Spartanburg Water will be performing an algaecide application starting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 on Municipal Reservoir #1 and Lake Bowen with a licensed commercial applicator (pending weather, water quality and environmental conditions).

This is a maintenance application targeting some early season Geosmin producers that we have identified through our monitoring strategy.

As is the case with all of our treatments, the goal is to control algae growth in our reservoirs to ensure quality drinking water for our community.

**February 15 Lake Alert: SCDOT to Begin Maintenance on I-26 Bridge Over Lake Bowen February 15**

Beginning today, February 15, SCDOT will begin conducting maintenance on the I-26 bridge that crosses over Lake Bowen.

The left two passages moving upstream may close during this scheduled maintenance, which should last approximately 2-4 weeks.

Those using watercraft should exercise extreme caution and avoid these areas at this time.

**January 18 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Re-open January 19**

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will re-open for use tomorrow, January 19, at 7:30 a.m.

**January 17 Lake Alert: Winter Weather: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Closed January 18**

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will be closed again tomorrow, January 18, due to current safety concerns following our recent winter weather.

We will re-open both parks as soon as we deem it safe to do so.

**January 16 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Closed Tomorrow**

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will be closed tomorrow, January 17, due to the current winter weather situation.

Please refrain from using any watercraft on either lakes tomorrow for safety concerns.

**January 15 Lake Alert: Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks Closed for Winter Weather Tomorrow**

Lake Bowen and Lake Blalock Parks and boat access areas will be closed tomorrow, January 16, in anticipation of winter weather concerns.

Please refrain from using any watercraft on either lakes tomorrow for safety concerns.