

Lake Washington gradually lowering to winter level

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Aug. 31, 2000

SEATTLE-- Lake Washington is slowly lowering to its winter level of 20 feet above sea level, according to the Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps regulates the level of Lakes Washington and Union through its operation of spillway gates at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks in Ballard. The Corps holds the lakes at a winter elevation of 20 feet to provide flood control for Seattle and reduce potential shoreline damage from winter storms. The Corps begins raising the level each spring to benefit fish and for summer recreation.

The Corps usually lowers the lake to 20 feet above sea level between June and November and then raises the level to 22 feet between February and May.

You can monitor Lake Washington's elevation any time on the Intranet at:

<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nws/hh/basins/cgi-bin/lkwash.pl> The site provides current elevation information as well as a graph of Lake Washington's average elevation throughout the year. You can also get to this site through <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil> and clicking on the Water Management button.