

+ farmstead

Reel 'Em In

WHETHER YOU HAVE A SMALL POND on your land or a large impoundment, chances are it could use a little work now and again. That could mean repairs to your dam or dock, cleaning off the banks and most importantly—at least for those anglers among us—maximizing fish habitat.

In many places, autumn and winter are terrific seasons for such work. In the frozen north, spring may be better. You can do as little or as much as your finances and desires allow. “Set a budget and a plan based on whether you want numbers of fish or trophy bass, and what kind of vegetation or fertilization management is needed,” says Barry Smith of American Sport Fish hatchery in Montgomery, Ala. “Managing a lake or pond is a year-round project, if you want the best results. Things you can do in autumn, such as feeding, water sampling and fertilizing one last time before winter, help carry over to spring.”

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For tips on what types of fish to stock in your pond or small lake, see go.myfarmlife.com/farmpond.