

## Summary of Corps Of Engineers Survey and Monitoring Efforts for ILT



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## December 2002 Meeting



**Representatives from 3 Corps Divisions, ( Northwestern, Southwestern and Mississippi Valley ), Corps HQ, and 7 Corps Districts attended a meeting in Tulsa to address ILT issues**

- Identification of major issues
- Development of “white paper” outlining action items

## The Corps developed a List of Proposed Actions

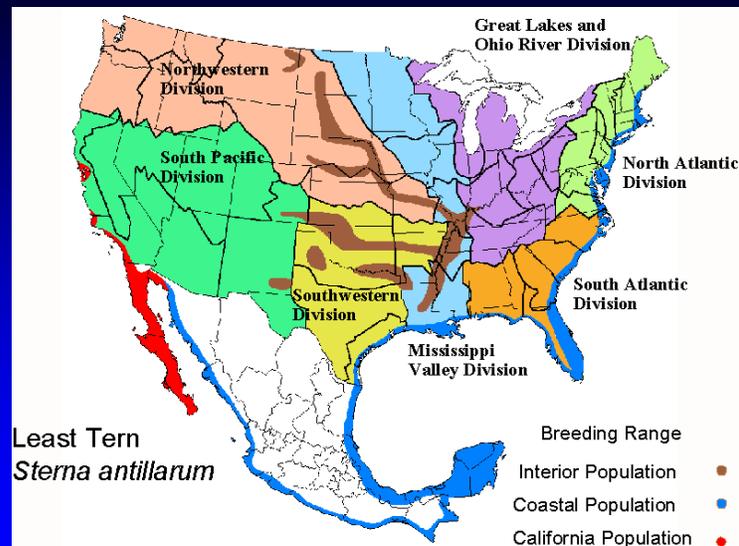
- A symposium should be held to allow interested stakeholders to share information.
- A standardized protocol for population surveys throughout the ILT range should be developed to insure data could be used in determining success in meeting recovery goals.



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## Current Status of Monitoring Efforts



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## Current Status of Monitoring Efforts



- Each District with ILT's conducts its own monitoring efforts
- Little coordination among Districts and FWS regions
- There is a perceived need to develop a standardized, coordinated monitoring program through the range of ILT to determine overall population status

## Memphis/Vicksburg Districts



- Small Boat Surveys since 1985
  - Towboat surveys until 1995
  - Aerial surveys until 1997
  - Primarily an adult survey and identification of # of nesting colonies
  - Conducted by Ken Jones, Dyersburg State Comm. College
- Memphis District has taken the lead in carrying out population surveys for the past 19 years along the Middle and Lower Mississippi River



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## Mississippi River from Cape Girardeau, MO to Vicksburg, MS



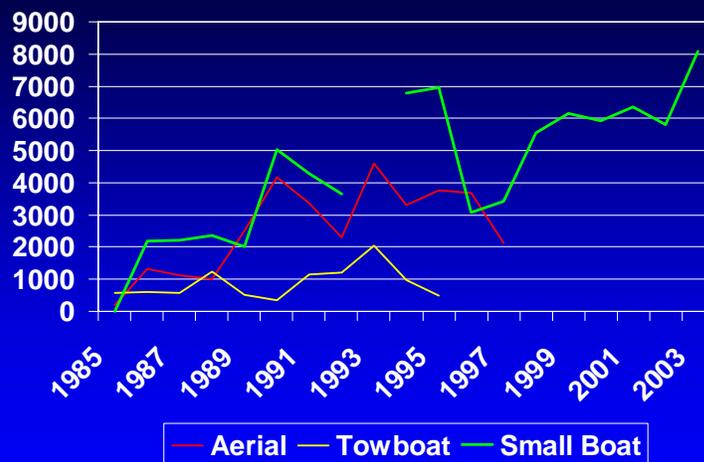
Year	# Adults	# Colonies
2000	5,920	65
2001	6,361	54
2002	5,802	68
2003	8,082	68



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## Mississippi River from Cape Girardeau, MO to Vicksburg, MS



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## Memphis/Vicksburg Districts



- **Red River from Texarkana to Shreveport, LA**  
Conducted in 2000 by Michael Guilfoyle, ERDC-EL



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## Tulsa District



- Airboat is used for surveys
- Surveys mid-June to early August
- Total nesting population
- Productivity (FBR)
- Surveys by USACE, USFWS, and Audubon

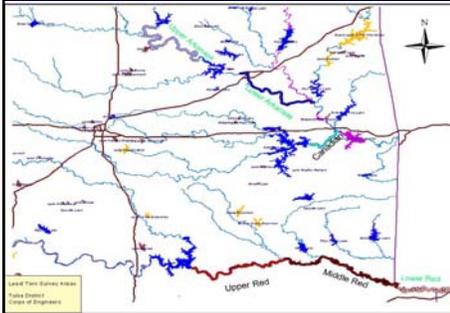
- **Arkansas River – 92 miles between Kaw Dam and Keystone Lake**
- **Arkansas River – 58 miles between Tulsa and Muskogee, OK**
- **Zink Island – Tulsa**



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## Tulsa District



### Kaw Dam and Keystone Lake

<u>Year</u>	<u># Adults</u>	<u># Colonies</u>	<u># Nests</u>
2003	118	5	36+

### Tulsa and Muskogee, OK

<u>Year</u>	<u># Adults</u>	<u># Colonies</u>	<u># Nests</u>
2003	419	14	149



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## Omaha District



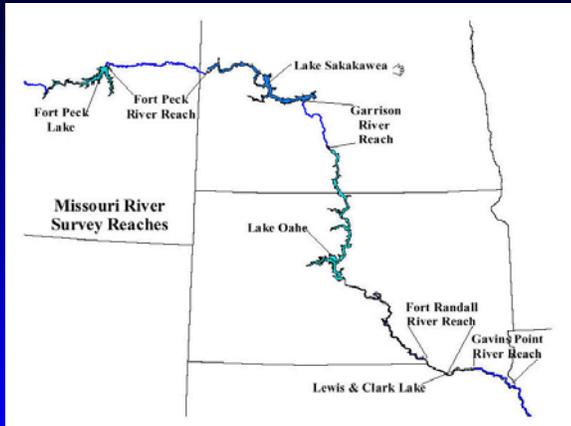
- Has conducted population surveys, habitat restoration, habitat mapping, water release modification, and some captive rearing for the past 12 years
- Weekly surveys from early May through late August
- Adult surveys during mid- to late-June



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## Omaha District



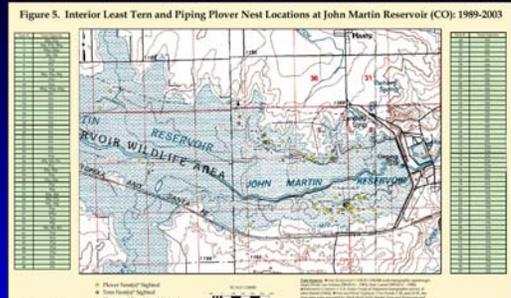
- Surveys conducted on 8 separate reaches along the Missouri River



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## Albuquerque District



- The Albuquerque District has developed an ILT management plan for John Martin Reservoir on the Arkansas River in order to comply with a USFWS BO regarding the effect of recreational activities.
- Annual surveys conducted at John Martin Reservoir, CO; Adobe Creek Reservoir; and Neenoshe Reservoir.



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## Albuquerque District



- In 2003, 24 ILT pairs detected (up from 19 pairs in 2002). Thirty-three nests (including renests) were found in 2003, with a total of 76 eggs counted.
- Recent population increase attributed to annual habitat projects addressing periodic fluctuations in water levels and the encroachment of vegetation to prime nesting sites.



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## Little Rock District



The Little Rock District developed an ILT management plan for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System in Arkansas in 1986. The plan describes population surveys and habitat protection and creation measures that are conducted.



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# Louisville District



- Annual surveys of lower Ohio River – contracted to KY State Nature Preserves
- Have an ongoing commitment to create nesting islands whenever dredging is required in the historic nesting area of the lower Ohio (mile 975 – 916)



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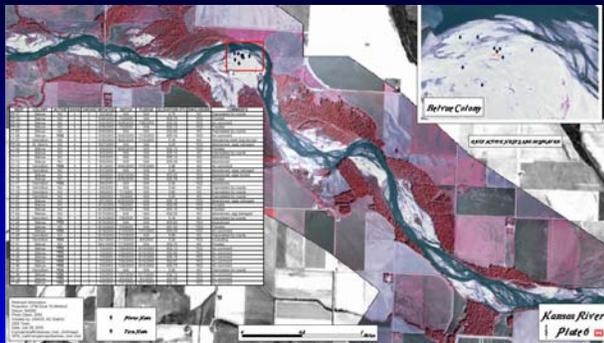
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## Kansas City District



- 125-mi reach of Kansas River
- Boat surveys
- District ID's new colonies
- Monitoring by Dr. Roger Boyd, Baker University
- ~ 34 nests in 2003



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## Fort Worth District

- Survey Information available for the Rio Grande River ??
- No Corps reservoirs in Lower Rio Grande
- No Corps surveys are being conducted on the river
- However, some ILT nesting occurs on a Corps-funded environmental restoration project.



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## Adult Censuses

<u>District</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>#Years</u>	<u>Approx. River Miles</u>	<u>Primary Type</u>
Memphis	13-17 July	19	576	Small Boat
Vicksburg	13-17 July	19	included above	Small Boat
Omaha	15-30 June	12	~750	Small Boat
Tulsa	26 June-27 July		150	Airboat
Albuquerque	May-July	15	n/a	Boat/Foot
Kansas City	May – July		125	Small Boat
Louisville	?		?	Boat/Dredge
Fort Worth				
Little Rock				
St. Louis				



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# Interior Least Tern Research and Monitoring Workshop



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