

Species Protective Measures for Interior Least Tern

1. No activities, other than normal boat traffic, are permitted within 1,000 ft of the shoreline or island of an active nesting colony.
2. If surveys or observations reveal Least Tern breeding activity within 0.5 mi of a proposed project location during the nesting period (May 15 to August 1, although nesting may extend beyond these dates depending on river stage elevations), no dredging will proceed unless otherwise approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, in consultation with appropriate state and Federal agencies.
3. No dredging operations will take place closer than 1,000 ft of the shoreline of an active nesting colony or sparsely vegetated sand or gravel bar/island. The Service should be contacted for further consultation if dredging is to proceed within 1,000 feet of the shoreline of an active nesting colony.
4. No sand and gravel dredging will take place within 200 ft from the shoreline of bars/islands where Interior Least Tern nesting has been documented.
5. The applicant should instruct project or dredging personnel that if Interior Least Terns have been observed nesting on an island/bar, then further consultation with USFWS Arkansas Field Office must occur prior to accessing it.
6. Dredging and mining personnel will be trained to recognize Interior Least Tern and be able to easily follow a notification process. If, in the process of conducting work, the personnel or company officials discover an Interior Least Tern colony at an island or on a spoil/loading pile in the vicinity covered by this permit, the above restrictions also apply to that location.