

LEAST TERN MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Raised by Working Group June 6, 2000

Population

- Viability in source versus sink population.
- Beach nourishment could increase the carrying capacity of beaches to support nesting least terns.

Threats/Limiting Factors

- Balance recreational use with habitat needs of the birds.
- Dogs/enforceable leash law.
- Predation.
- Municipal vehicles on beaches.
- Other limiting factors we don't understand (food, etc.).
- Development pressures/habitat loss.
- Army Corps of Engineers projects.
- Threats to NRPA dune laws.
- Sea level rise.

Management

- Need for state park management plans.
- Dialogue among other managers on the east coast.
- Management issues are more complex as we become more successful in increasing populations.
- Conflicting state and federal policies and missions.
- Private property/landowner rights issues.

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Needs/Research

- Additional research on least tern diet, survival, etc.
- Lack of funding/inadequate management.
- Greater public outreach.
- Landowner recognition.