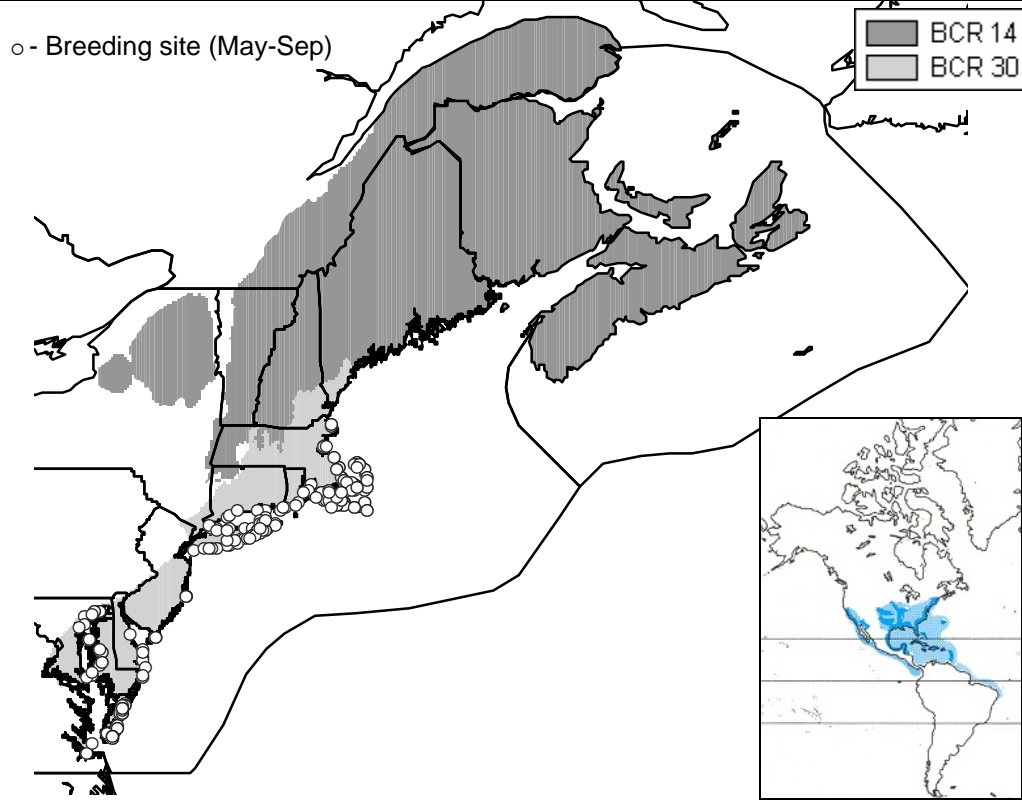


LEAST TERN (*Sterna antillarum antillarum*)

Conservation Status: Abundance (b=breeding, nb=nonbreeding, t=total individuals), Population Importance (% reference population) and Conservation Rank							
Global	North America	BCR 14	BCR 30	Mid-Atlantic	S. New England	Gulf of Maine	Maritimes
65,000 – 70,000t	? (% global)	0b (0% NA)	16,018b (% NA)	5,284b (33% MANEM)	9,502b (59% MANEM)	1,232b (8% MANEM)	0b (0% MANEM)
IUCN- Least Concern	NAWCP- High Concern	High Concern	High Concern	NJ-ES1B; DE-ES1B; MD-TS2B; VA-SCS2B,SZN MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-NJ,DE,MD,VA	NY-TS3B; CT-TS2B,SZN; RI-TS2B, S2N; MA-SCS3; VT-na MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-NY,CT,RI,MA	MA-SCS3; NH-ESHB,SZN; ME-ES1B; NB, NS- no info MANEM Focal Species State SGCN-MA,NH,ME	QC- S?; PE- no info; NB, NS- no info



Regional Occurrence

- Distribution: breeds and migrates in region
- Habitats used: breeds on sandy/gravelly beaches, banks of rivers or lakes; forages 3-12 km from colony in variety of shallow water habitats: marine coasts, bays, lagoons, estuaries, river and creek mouths, tidal marshes, lakes, occasionally offshore; inland rivers, streams, sloughs, dike fields, marshes, ponds, sand pits, reservoirs

NAWCP BD=3; NAWCP ND=2

Regional Abundance

- 1990s: US—16,018b (126 colonies); CAN—0b
- 1970s: US—15,190b (118 colonies)
- Increase in 70s-90s regional population

NAWCP PS=2; NAWCP PT=4

Regional Threats/Limiting Factors

- Degradation/loss of habitat due to development, beach vehicles, other human use of nesting areas, encroaching vegetation and removal of shell substrate
- Predation by mammals (esp. dogs and introduced foxes) and other bird species
- Rising sea levels limit nest sites; heavy rains, spring tides flood nests
- Research/banding may lead to nest abandonment and chick mortality

NAWCP TB=5; NAWCP TN=4

Conservation Needs: *Sustainability:* 0.6 fledgling/breeding adult/yr. *Conservation Actions:* Protect against predation, human (and dog) disturbance at nesting sites, rising sea levels, and encroaching vegetation. Experiments with artificial nesting sites, elevation enhancement, vegetation management and attracting Least Terns to abandoned colonies with the use of decoys have been successful in some locations. *Needs:* assess productivity, manage nesting site predators and disturbance (including beach vehicles), monitor, public outreach and education, site-specific conservation planning at key sites (IBAs), reduce conflicts with beach management, roof-nesting colonies. *Population Goals:* restore (increase) to 13,600-16,600b. *Habitat Goals:* Restore/protect breeding habitat in following priority complexes: VA-Barrier Is Group; MD-Assawoman & Sinepuxent Bays, Patapsco Group; DE-Calf Is Group; NJ-Little Egg Harbor; NY-Jamaica Bay Group; CT-New Haven Group; MA-National Seashore, Nantucket. *Conservation Projects:* 9, 10, 12, 32, 33, 34, 36, 40, 42, 44, 45, 113, 115.

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