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**DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
PARTNER TO RESTORE COMMON TERN HABITATS IN MICHIGAN**

ROYAL OAK, Mich. – Conservation groups and government entities from the United States and Canada convened at the Detroit Zoo on Tuesday, Dec. 14, to discuss plans for managing the state-threatened common tern in the Detroit River corridor. A signature species of the Detroit River, the migratory bird spends most of the year in South America but travels north for the milder climate and abundant food sources in the summer months.

Among the components of the project discussed at Tuesday's roundtable is the development of additional common tern nesting habitats on the Detroit River. The Detroit Zoological Society (DZS), Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR) and Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) have established a site on DWSD land on Belle Isle to attract terns to a historic nesting location.

"In the 1960s, Belle Isle was a premier nesting and reproduction site for hundreds of common terns, but the birds have been displaced by changes in their habitat," said Detroit Zoological Society Curator of Birds Tom Schneider. "Our goal is to restore their habitats on Belle Isle, western Lake Erie and other parts of the Great Lakes region and keep the common tern here as a nesting species for generations to come."

The group hopes to attract the species to the Belle Isle site with tern calls and decoys. Once the site is successfully colonized, DZS staff will monitor the reproductive progress of the colony and factors that may affect the overall success of the project.

In addition to monitoring the nesting habitats of the species, other goals of the common tern management program include minimizing potential predation and coordinating management efforts on the Detroit River with those in other parts of the Great Lakes. There are currently two common tern nesting colonies on the Detroit River, both utilizing structures associated with the two Grosse Isle bridges.

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