

THE LAKE POYGAN SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

The West Bay Cane Bed: The Next
Major Challenge

1975

This is an aerial view of the West Bay canes from October of 1975.. The large “holes” are actually the places where shallow marsh plants grew during the summer and disappeared



The West Side

In the mid-1980's, the bed began to show subtle signs of damage on the west . Notice the open hole in the vegetation behind the west side of the gap. The outer edges of the bed



Big Gap 1987

During 1987, the fragmentation continued, and larger holes began to appear in the shallow wetland plant beds growing in the interior.



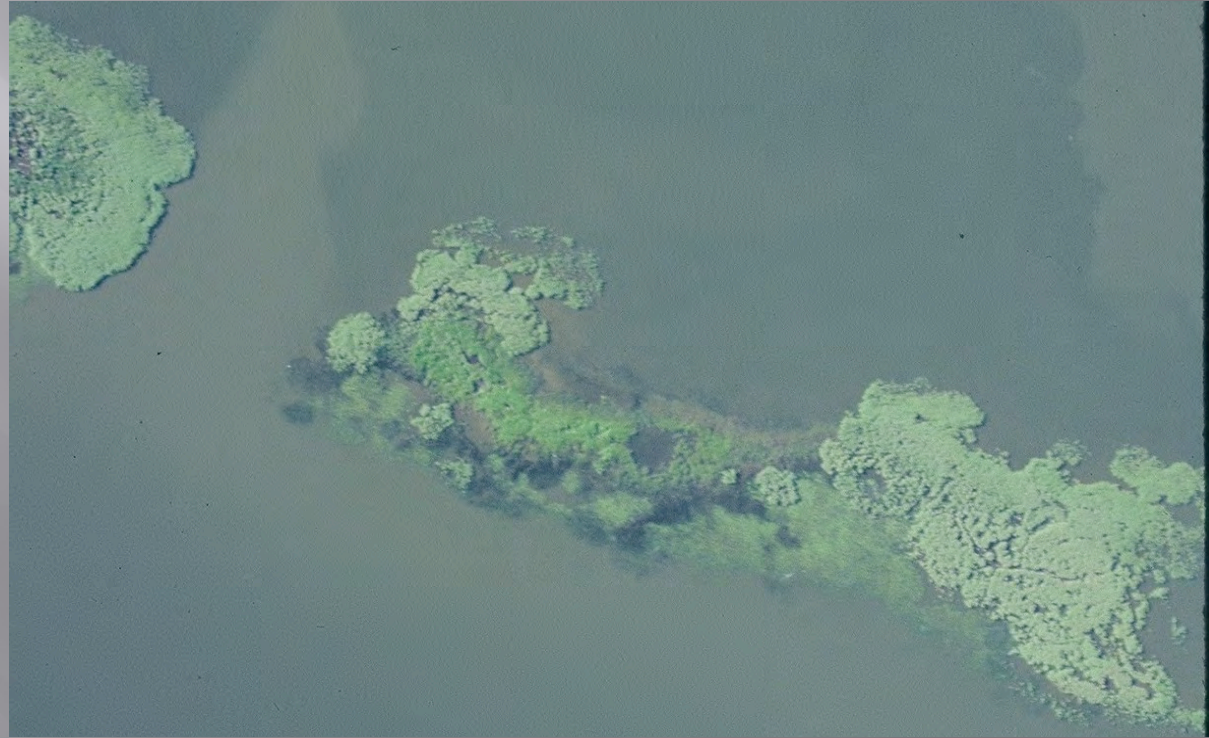
1990

By 1990, the pace of fragmentation began to accelerate, especially along the west side of the gap. Holes now began to appear in the eastern half as well.



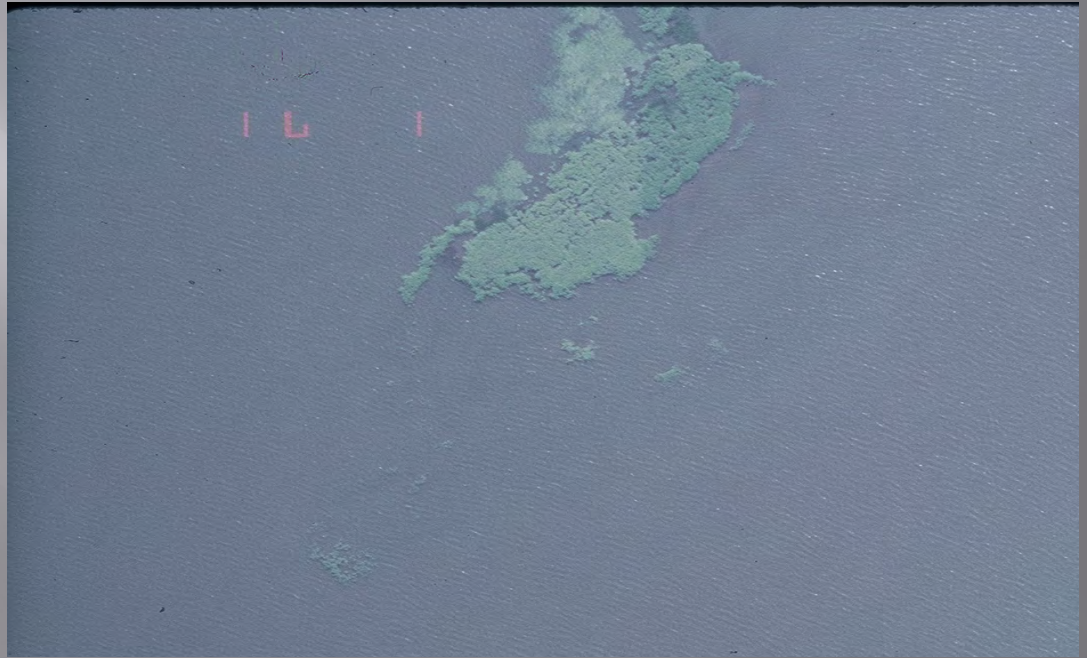
West Half 1992

By 1992, the loss on the west side was becoming dramatic and alarming. Still, the bed seemed generally healthy, and it was hoped that over time, it would recover



Bluebill Point 1998

By 1998, all that remained of Bluebill Point on the far west end of the bed was the few scattered patches seen in the lower half of this photo.



2004

By 2004, there was extensive damage to both halves of the bed, but the worst deterioration was occurring on the western half. Since then, this pattern has continued.



2005

By 2005, the area immediately west of the gap has become isolated from the rest of the bed, which is dangerously thin and badly fragmented.



Tern Nesting Sites

Besides being a popular place for waterfowl hunting and walleye and panfish angling, the West Bay Cane Bed also served as the primary nesting site for the state endangered Forster's Tern.



As can be seen in this photo, the birds nested on exposed bottom, as well as on the matted stems of the previous year's growth. This was takes on the west side of the gap, where the damage is greatest. This site has been completely destroyed.



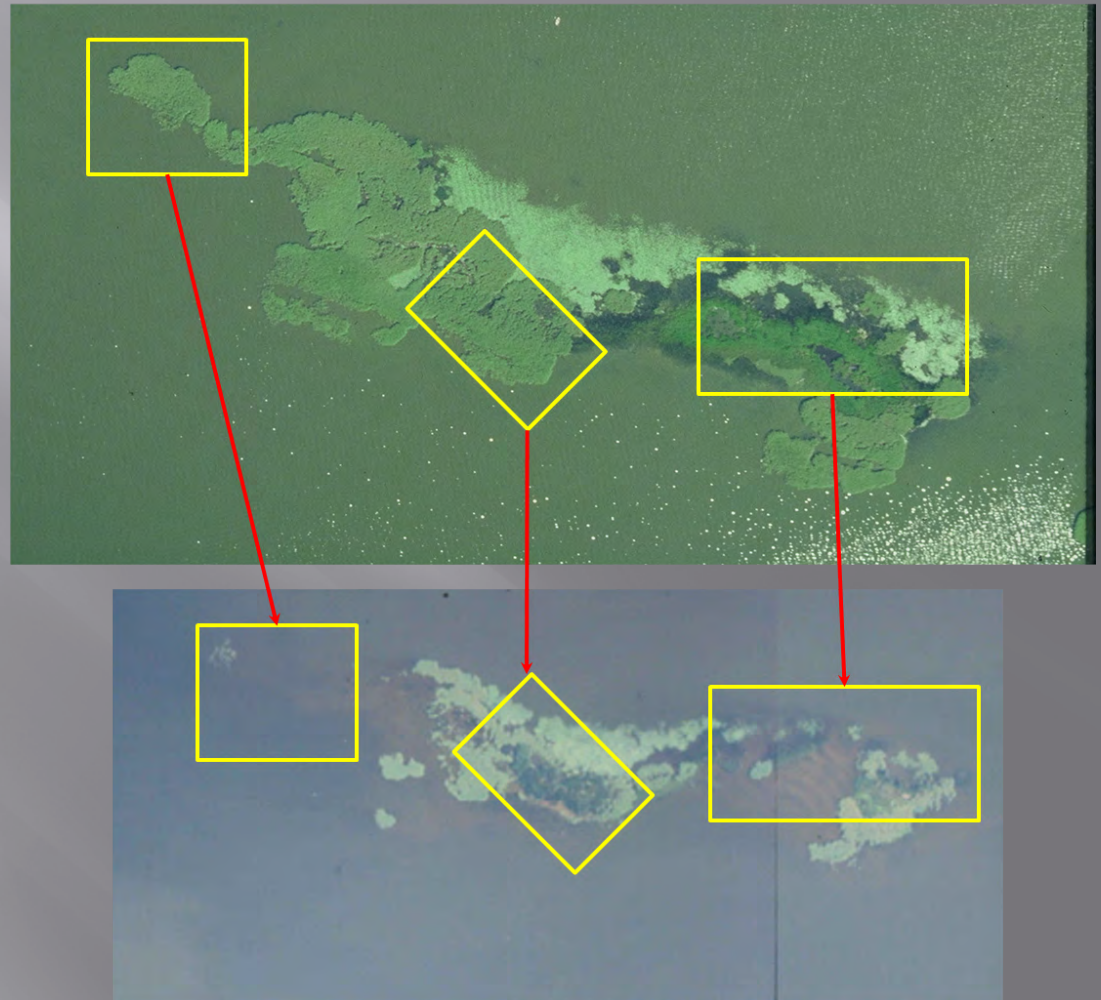
As recently as 1990, this site hosted 500 pairs of nesting terns. Since then, that number has slowly declined until, in 2008, there was not a single successful nest at the site.

One of the objectives of our restoration effort here is to re-establish the tern



Assessing the Damage

These photos from 1986 and 2005 provide a vivid illustration of how much has been lost as well as the possible future of the bed if nothing is done.



The Proposed Solution

The rock structures in this drawing will protect the cane bed and promote regrowth. The total cost could run as high as \$1.2 million.



- ▣ Obviously, financing this project will require a huge fundraising effort. While LPSC will attempt to raise money from traditional grant sources, public involvement will be of crucial importance in helping us to succeed. The broader our base of public support, the more favorable our reception will be when we apply for large grants from both public and private sources.
- ▣ Contributions can be sent to The Lake Poygan Sportsmen's Club at P.O. Box 76, Larsen, WI 54947.
- ▣ Please indicate that you wish to have your donation used for the West Bay Cane Bed Project so that we can apply the money to a special

The Lake Poygan Sportsmen's Club wishes to thank Art Techlow of the Wisconsin DNR and Dean Kaderabek of the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department for their invaluable assistance in assembling this presentation