

2004

Chief of Engineers Design & Environmental Awards Program



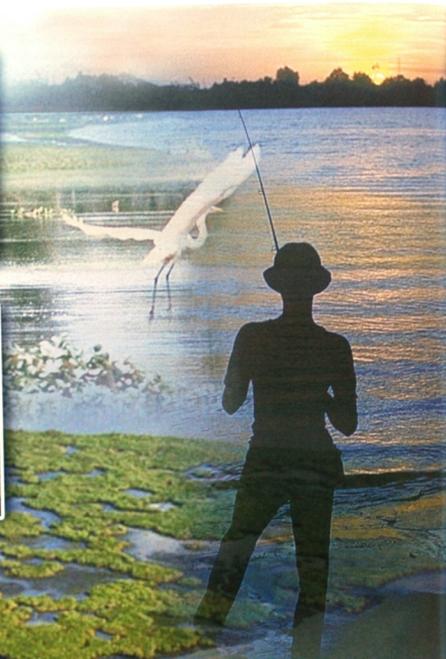
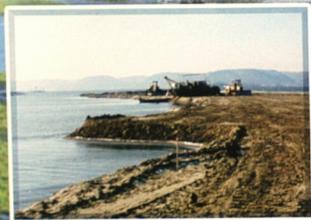
Excellence

Special Recognition

Honor

Ment

TE-10-91



Chief of Engineers Award of Excellence



Pool 8 Islands Habitat Project, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Design Agency: U.S. Army Engineer District,
St. Paul, Minnesota

Design Firm: U.S. Army Engineer District,
St. Paul, Minnesota

Sponsor/Owner: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
Upper Mississippi River Refuge,
LaCrosse District, Onalaska, Wisconsin

TE-10-91



Historical
Islands
1961

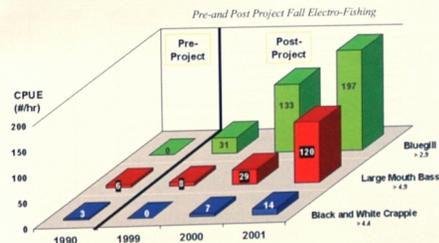


Pre-Island
Restoration
1994



Post-Island
Restoration
2000

The Pool 8 Islands Project is a unique, large-scale restoration effort constructed between 1989 and 1999. The form and function of several thousand acres of floodplain and channel were improved to optimize waterfowl, fish, and wildlife habitat. Lessons learned from the project have greatly improved the ability to restore floodplains elsewhere on the Mississippi River. Since the project is located on a national wildlife refuge near a large urban area, it provides educational opportunities to the public regarding the importance of floodplain restoration. The project increases the ability of the Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Natural Resources to accomplish their missions of providing high-quality fish and wildlife habitat.



Jury Comments:
This comprehensive project documents the success of restoration over time. A combination of hydraulics and geotechnical and biotechnical improvements was used to set an example for successful floodplain restoration along the Mississippi. This is an outstanding example of an engineering solution that has stood the test of time and successfully integrated itself with nature.

