

River Buoy Operations

WLRs—18 total—service short-range aids to navigation (ATON) on the Western Rivers. They set, relocate, and recover buoys to mark the navigable channel in the rivers as the water level changes. They also establish and maintain fixed aids, lights, and daybeacons within their area of responsibility.



WLRs transit an between locations to set, relocate, and recover buoys.

WLRs transit with fully loaded decks to execute their missions on the rivers. Each WLR has a crew of 16 and carries an average of about 75 buoys.



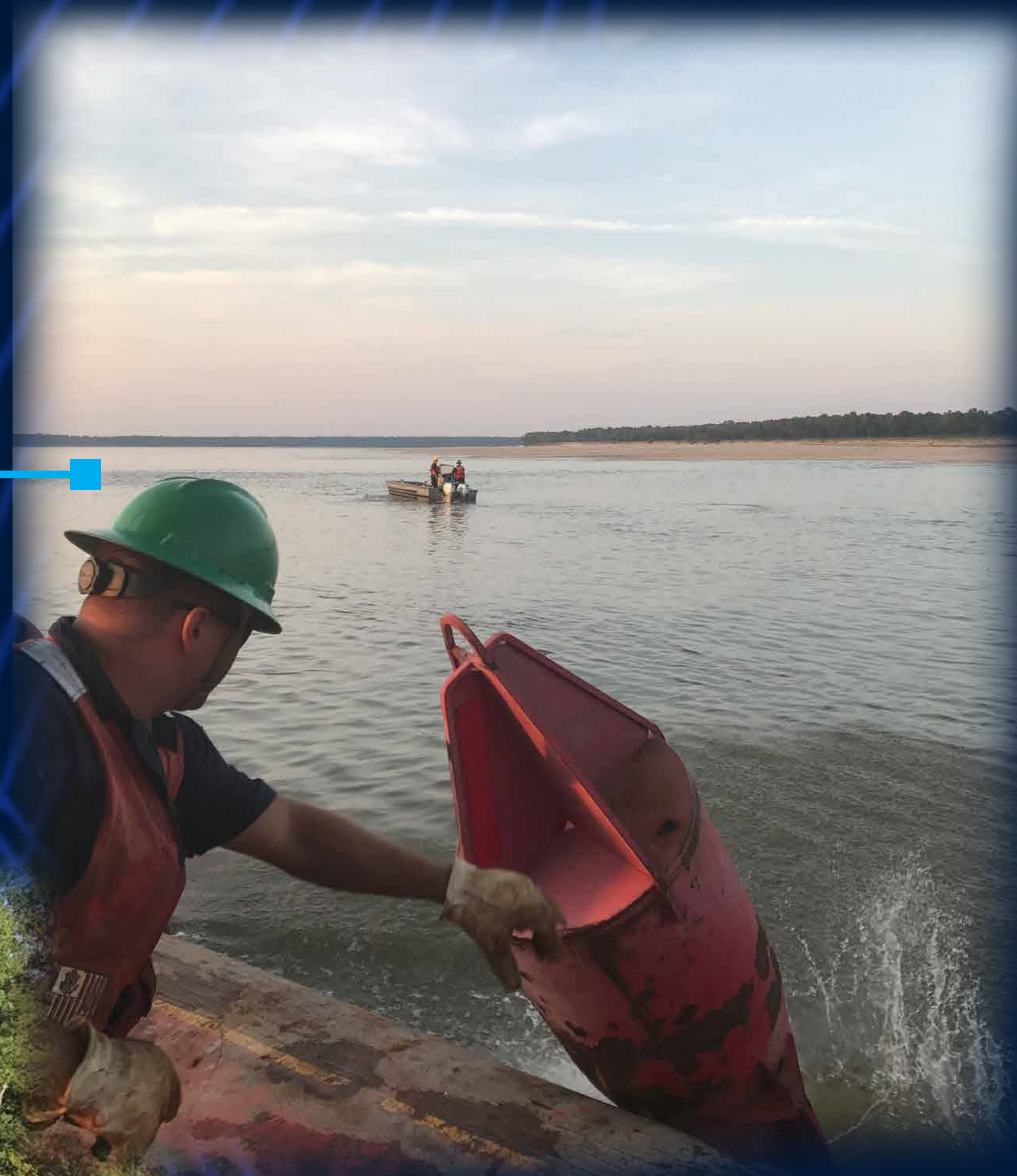
Crewmembers lasso buoys to recover them, allowing the WLR to maintain a safe distance to avoid damage to the cutter or buoy.

Once the buoy is within reach, a crewmember uses a boathook to attach a wire rope or chain to pull it onto the deck.



A crewmember deploys a buoy sinker using a dumpboard.

After deploying a sinker using a dumpboard, a crewmember sets the buoy to mark the navigational channel.



A crewmember relocates a shore-based aid within the cutter's area of responsibility.

