

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/31/96

Loads: none inspected

Area(s) Worked: 3369 + 60 to 3801 + 60

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H2O Temperature- Surface: na

Below Mid-Depth: na

Condition of all screening apparatus: na

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? na

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Observers arrive aboard *McFarland* about 13:30. Dredge has been working channel since January, observers will begin inspecting loads at midnight on 4/1/96. Observer coverage will be 100%; each observer on watch 12 hours daily.

The ship's two landers are screened at their discharge point with cages constructed of 4" x 4" steel mesh. Cages have large doors that may be opened to facilitate the removal of debris.

Cage doors are open but screening has collected large amounts of fishing net, rope, and other trash in bottom and sides. Doors will remain open until inspections begin.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *McFarland*: Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/1/96

Loads: 525 - 532

Area(s) Worked: stations 3369 + ⁶⁰ to 3801 + ⁶⁰

Weather Conditions: clearing overnight, NW to NE winds 10 - 25 kts, seas 3 - 4'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 62° F Below Mid-Depth: 62 - 64.5° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: fair. Screening was jammed with nets and other debris from previous dredging (see below).

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Closed cage doors after load #524 on 3/31 to begin inspections on 4/1. Cage screening is jammed with a substantial amount of fishing net, wire mesh, metal debris, pen shells, whelks, sea whips and other debris from previous dredging. Observer attempted to remove material at 03:00 after dumping load #525 and washing out about 1' of overlying mud with firehose, but solid material was wedged into screening. For loads #525 through #527, observers removed as much material as possible with fire hoses and by hand for 20 - 30 minutes after each load but most of previously jammed material remained. Return time from dump to dredge site is about 20 minutes.

When daylight arrived after load #527 the *McFarland* halted dredging operations for nearly three hours while several crew members removed the bulk of this material. Observers are able to remove the remainder (whelk and pen shells, sea whips, rocks, wood) a little at a time following each load, after washing 2 - 4' of mud out of cages with firehoses.

Additional biological specimens retained by the screening today included blue and spider crabs, 2 unidentified fish carcasses, 1 ray, and a 3' Atlantic cutlassfish.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	5	11	in channel & on way to dump

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/2/96

Loads: 533 - 542

Area(s) Worked: stations 3369 + 60 to 3801 + 60

Weather Conditions: clear, NW to NE winds 0 - 15 kts, seas 0 - 4'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 60 ° F Below Mid-Depth: 66 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: fair. Starboard screening on outboard side of box is pulling away from frame. Temporarily cabled together by observer but needs welding.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Material is dense mud. An accumulation of 2 - 4' remains in boxes following each load even after flushing landers, which observers remove with firehoses. Wood chunks are retained every load, as well as occasional fishing net, plastic debris and wire crab pot screening. Biological material collected today included pen shells and whelks, unidentified fish carcasses, spider crabs and one black drum.

Starboard cage screening is pulling away from outboard side, leaving a 6 -9" gap. Observer cabled forward and bottom edges to frame after load # 538, but then aft end started pulling loose. Notified captain, will be rewelded this layover.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	5	9	maximum of 3 seen at once

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/3/96

Loads: 543 - 552

Area(s) Worked: stations 3369 + ⁽⁶⁾ to 3801 + ⁽⁶⁾

Weather Conditions: partly cloudy, light airs, seas 0 - 1'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 61-63 ° F Below Mid-Depth: 66 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: fair. Starboard screening on outboard side of box is pulling away from frame. Temporarily cabled together by observer but needs welding.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Mud accumulating 1 - 4' deep in boxes requires flushing with firehoses by observers after every load. Some wood and occasional rocks, pen shells, fishing net, whelks, vegetation, blue crabs, spider crabs, fish parts, a stone crab and one whole black drum were also removed from boxes.

Outboard screening on side of starboard cage, temporarily cabled together by observer, is pulling apart and needs to be rewelded. A 3' X 6-8" gap has opened along the aft bottom of this screen.

At 21:05, after dumping load # 552, *McFarland* begins heading to Venice dock to change crews and take on supplies.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	5	22	three distinct subgroups

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/4/96

Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: na

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: na

Below Mid-Depth: na

Condition of all screening apparatus: Starboard box screening needs rewelding.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

McFarland arrives at Venice dock about 09:30 to change crews and take on supplies.
Observers on standby.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/5/96

Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: na

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: na

Below Mid-Depth: na

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good. Starboard box outboard screening is rewelded on way to dig site.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

McFarland leaves Venice dock about 12:30 to return to dredge site. Observers aboard since scheduled departure time of 08:00, which was delayed due to fog. Dredge in transit remainder of day.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *McFarland*: Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/6/96

Loads: 553 - 560

Area(s) Worked: 3517 + ⁽⁰⁰⁾ to 3669 + ⁽⁰⁰⁾

Weather Conditions: overcast, rain; northerly winds 10 - 25 kts, seas 3 - 5'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 58 - 62 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 64 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredging began at 00:07, in a new location up the channel from the last dig site. Abundant vegetation and trash filled the boxes. Although mud is light and silty and easily washed with firehoses, solid stems and rhizomes and wood chunks are up to 4' deep and require hand removal. Also abundant were pen shells, with lesser amounts of whelks and unidentified bivalves. Occasional blue and spider crabs, monofilament fishing line, two hardhead catfish and one black drum were also obtained.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	1	2	in channel

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/7/96

Loads: 561 - 567

Area(s) Worked: 3517 + ⁽⁰⁰⁾ to 3669 + ⁽⁰⁰⁾

Weather Conditions: clear to overcast, winds shifting NE to SE 15 to <5 kts, seas 1 - 4'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 59 - 62 ° F Below Mid-Depth: 70 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Abundant stems, stalks, rhizomes, and algae continue to plug screening and require hand removal by observers for ~30 minutes every load. Pen shells, whelks, unidentified bivalves, fish heads and carcasses, and wood chunks also commonly plug screens, along with plastic trash and other debris. Mud is light silt.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	4	13	three groups

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 3/31/96 - 4/7/96

Loads: 525 - 567

Range of Water Temperature- Surface: 58 - 63 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 62 - 70 ° F

Area(s) Worked: stations 3369 + ⁶⁰ to 3801 + ⁶⁰ ; 3517 + ⁰⁰ to 3669 + ⁰⁰

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments:

Observers Paula Olson and Doug Kinzey arrive aboard *McFarland* on 3/31/96, to begin inspecting loads on 4/1/96. Dredge has two boxes with 4 X 4" screening, one at the mouth of each lander, to retain materials for inspection. No TED's are installed on dragheads. Dredge has been working in this area since January. First load inspected was #525.

From 4/1 to 4/3 dredging was located between stations 3369 + ⁶⁰ to 3801 + ⁶⁰ where material was dense mud. Items retained by the screening included pen shells, whelks, rocks, blue and spider crabs, vegetation, fish parts, fishing net and monofilament line, plastic debris, and wire crab pot screening. Material required the use of fire hoses and hand removal every load.

The *McFarland* docked in Venice on 4/4 to change crews and take on supplies, returning to the Gulf Outlet on 4/5. Dredging resumed at midnight on 4/6, in a new location - stations 3517 + ⁰⁰ to 3669 + ⁰⁰. The new location has abundant vascular vegetative debris and algae that clog the screens and require hand removal every load, as well as mud that must be removed with firehoses. Additional materials retained are pen shells, wood chunks, whelks, crabs, fish parts, and fishing gear, and trash.

The box doors have been reinforced with iron crossbars, correcting the bending problem the doors had last year, but subsequently making them too heavy for one person to operate. It now requires 2 - 3 people about 5 minutes to close the doors. As a result, observers are leaving doors closed and throwing material over the top of the screening. Installation of smaller, side-opening doors on inboard and outboard screens of each box (four doors total), that could be opened and closed by a single person, would greatly facilitate cleaning the boxes on the *McFarland*, requiring less time and reducing the chance of injury. A door design similar to that in place on the boxes of the *Wheeler* is one possibility.

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ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

WEEKLY REPORT
3/31/96 - 4/7/96

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i> (bottlenose dolphins)	20	57	Several groups throughout area

Observers On Duty: Doug Kinzey, Paula Olson

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *McFarland*: Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/8/96

Loads: 568 - 575

Area(s) Worked: 3517 + ⁰⁰ to 3669 + ⁰⁰

Weather Conditions: clear to cloudy, winds variable <5 kts, seas calm to 2'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 59 - 63 ° F Below Mid-Depth: 71 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Vertical screens continue to require hand removal of packed vegetation (vascular rhizomes and *Chaetomorpha*-type algae) most loads, along with firehosing 1 to 4' of mud from bottom of boxes. Pen shells, whelks, wood chunks and bivalves are common, with smaller amounts of oyster shells, fish skulls and blue crabs. Miscellaneous plastic trash, metal and fishing debris are also common.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	4	18	largest group had about 10 individuals

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *McFarland*: Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/9/96

Loads: 576 - 584

Area(s) Worked: 3517 + ⁰⁰ to 3669 + ⁰⁰

Weather Conditions: clear, NW winds 5 - 20 kts, seas 1 - 4'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 60 - 63 ° F Below Mid-Depth: 68 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Vegetation continues to pack screening and require hand removal every load. Mud is light and silty, generally 1-3' deep in outboard box sections with lesser amounts in center and inboard sections. Pen shells, oyster shells, whelks, bivalves, blue crabs, wood, and plastic were also removed from the screens today.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	2	2	

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/10/96

Loads: 585 - 591

Area(s) Worked: 3517 +⁰⁰ to 3669 +⁰⁰

Weather Conditions: clear, winds variable 10 - 15 kts, seas 2 - 4'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 60 - 64 ° F Below Mid-Depth: 68 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Packed vegetation must be pulled by hand from screening every load. Usually 1 - 3' mud, deepest in outboard section of boxes, is removed using firehoses from inside boxes after lander flushing and firehosing from deck. Generally requires all time available on run back from dump site (20 minutes) to clean boxes, occasionally longer. Small doors on outboard and inboard side of each box that could be opened and closed by observers to throw out material would greatly facilitate this job, reducing the time and effort required to remove material.

Pen shells, woody debris, whelks, oysters, bivalves, blue and spider crabs, crab pot screening, and plastic were removed from the boxes today.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	1	4 - 8	

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *McFarland*: Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/11/96

Loads: 592 - 599

Area(s) Worked: 3517 +⁰⁰ to 3669 +⁰⁰

Weather Conditions: partly cloudy, SE to S winds 5 - 15 kts, seas 1 - 2'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 62 - 64 ° F Below Mid-Depth: 72 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Screens continue to pack with *Chaetomorpha* and vascular rhizomes every load, requiring hand removal. Bottom of boxes contain 1 - 4' of mud which observers remove with firehoses. Pen shells, whelks, wood pieces, bivalves, and plastic were also removed from boxes.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	1	1	

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/12/96

Loads: 600 - 607

Area(s) Worked: 3517 + ⁰⁰ to 3669 + ⁰⁰

Weather Conditions: clear to cloudy, SE winds 5 - 10 kts, seas 1 - 2'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 62 - 66 ° F Below Mid-Depth: 74 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Material continues to be silty mud with abundant vegetation, pen shells, and woody debris clogging screening, requiring hand removal. Also found numerous whelks, oyster shells, other bivalves and a blue crab.

An old (anaerobically blackened, no scutes) turtle bone, a section of dorsal plate approximately 31 X 15 cm, was removed from the port box in load # 601. Mortality was not associated with current dredging activity.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	2	5	

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *McFarland*: Mississippi River Gulf Outlet

USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/13/96

Loads: 608 - 615

Area(s) Worked: 3517 + ⁰⁰ to 3669 + ⁰⁰

Weather Conditions: hazy to foggy, SW winds calm to 10 kts, seas 0 - 1'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 65 - 70° F

Below Mid-Depth: 72° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Screens clogged with algae and clumps of vascular detritus (appears to be *Spartina*) every load. Also 1 - 3' mud, deepest in outboard sections of boxes. The usual pen shells and wheelks, oysters, unidentified bivalves, wood, plastic, and crab pot screening were also removed from the boxes.

McFarland anchored at 23:15 due to heavy fog after dumping load #615.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	2	3	two different groups

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *McFarland*: Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/14/96

Loads: 616 - 618

Area(s) Worked: 3517 + ⁰⁰ to 3669 + ⁰⁰

Weather Conditions: fog to thundershowers, SE to SW winds 5 - 15 kts, seas 1'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 68° F

Below Mid-Depth: 72° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

At anchor in fog in AM until 11:30. Loads continue to have abundant vegetation clogging screening; bottom of boxes contain pen and other shells, wood, trash, and 1 - 4' mud. Also removed one black drum from port box.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	3	16	about 8 animals total

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4/8/96 - 4/14/96

Loads: 568 - 618

Range of Water Temperature- Surface: 59 - 68 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 68 - 74 ° F

Area(s) Worked: stations 3517 + 00 to 3669 + 00

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments:

Vertical screens clog with abundant algae (*Chaetomorpha*) and vascular detritus (*Spartina*) every load, requiring hand removal of large quantities of these materials, along with firehosing 1 - 4' of mud from boxes. Time required to clean the boxes sometimes results in dredge having to wait for observers to finish. Complete load cycles are about three hours, return from dump is 20 - 30 minutes.

Abundant pen shells are also present in boxes, with smaller amounts of whelks, oyster shells, unidentified bivalves, woody debris, fish skulls, black drum, plastic and metal trash, fishing net and monofilament line, and crab pots.

An old turtle bone (mortality not associated with current dredging) was removed from the boxes on 4/12.

Water surface temperatures have been steadily increasing through the week, with no trends in mid-depth temperatures (71 ° mid-depth at beginning and 72 ° at end of week).

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i> (bottlenose dolphins)	15	51	

Observers On Duty: Doug Kinzey, Paula Olson

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/15/96

Loads: 619 - 624

Area(s) Worked: 3517 + 00 to 3669 + 00

Weather Conditions: clearing, winds shifting SW to N 15 - 25 kts, seas 1-3'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 61 - 64 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 73° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

McFarland anchored in fog after load #619 from 02:10 to 07:00. Screens plug with vegetative debris which must be hand-removed most loads. Two loads from center of channel were below this vegetative layer, getting into mud with a higher proportion of clay.

Pen and other shells, woody debris, one black drum and one hardhead catfish were also removed from the boxes.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	3	8	

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/16/96

Loads: 625 - 632

Area(s) Worked: 3517 + ⁰⁰ to 3669 + ⁰⁰

Weather Conditions: clearing, N to NE winds 15 - 20 kts, seas 1-4'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 60 - 64 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 73° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredged material is dense mud with more clay than previously. Mud 2 - 4' deep in boxes. Screens packed with vegetation for six of the loads, clear for two of them. Pen shells, whelks, oyster shells, woody debris, crab pots, plastic, and fish pieces are also found in the boxes. On some loads these items are packed 1 - 2' deep under the mud.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	3	7	

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *McFarland*: Mississippi River Gulf Outlet

USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/17/96

Loads: 633 - 640

Area(s) Worked: 3517 + ⁰⁰ to 3669 + ⁰⁰

Weather Conditions: clear to thundershowers, variable winds calm to 20 kts, seas 1-3'

Range of H₂O Temperature- Surface: 61 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 66 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Good.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Loads leave vegetation in screening and 1 - 3' mud and clay in bottom of boxes. Pen shells, wood, fishing net, crab pots, blue crabs, hardhead catfish, a rubber boot, a dive mask and other miscellaneous trash were also removed from screening. *McFarland* finished dredging after dumping load #640 and left site at about 22:30 to return to Venice, where it arrived about 10:00 on 4/18/96.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	6	34	about 16 total dolphins

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *McFarland* : Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District / Spring 1996

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4/15/96 - 4/18/96

Loads: 619 - 640

Range of Water Temperature- Surface: 60 - 64 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 66 - 73 ° F

Area(s) Worked: stations 3517 + 00 to 3669 + 00

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

Comments:

Vertical screening continued to plug with algae and vascular detritus, requiring hand removal for most loads. Each load generally also had 1 - 3' of mud and clay in bottom of boxes, which was removed by observers using firehoses. The amount of clay was increasing by the end of the job. Also removed pen shells, whelks, oyster shells, wood, black drum, hardhead catfish, and miscellaneous trash and fishing debris from boxes this week.

The *McFarland* finished dredging at about 22:30 on 4/17 and arrived at Venice dock at about 10:00 on 4/18, where observers departed.

The time required to clean the boxes on this job sometimes resulted in the dredge having to wait for observers to finish. Complete load cycles were about three hours, return from dump was 20 - 30 minutes. The small side-doors suggested in the Weekly Summary for 4/ 1-7 /96 would facilitate cleaning and inspection of boxes if installed. A longer term solution for the *McFarland* is to replace the current box design with flanged chutes extending from the ends of the distribution channels (channels could be shortened to accomodate chutes) that would direct outflow directly onto the screens so that mud and smaller material like algae is flushed through. The current system directs the outflow initially onto an angled metal plate which then redirects a backflow of water onto the screens, with eddy regions at either side where mud and other materials collect. This fine material needs to be removed by hand and firehose before inspection.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	12	49	

Observers On Duty: Doug Kinzey, Paula Olson