

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge: Atchafalaya

Project: Calcasieu, 00-C-0016

DAILY REPORT #5

Date 04 1 05 1 00 Load Numbers 151 - 152

Area(s) Worked 29°41.27N 93°20.20W STN 220-392

Weather Conditions (incl. sea conditions) P/Cloudy - clear, wind 5-20KTS, seas calm - 3'

Range of Water Temp., Surface 71°-72°F Below Mid-Depth 71°-69°F

Condition and Effectiveness of Screening Good

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? YES NO

Comments (details of turtle takes or whale sightings, dredged material, screening, biological by-catch, etc.):

Material being dredged is mud + silt.

Abiotic material was plastic, net, rope, line, cloth.

Biological specimens sampled were Tube worms, whale egg case, and one portion of gut. The thickness, texture, smell, and toughness of this portion of gut leads me to believe it was from a Turtle. However, without any other identifying characters, positive I.D. could not be made. This may have been a possible take (A.S)

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Animals	Time / Location / Comments
<u>T.t.</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0708 / E. of marker 32</u>
<u>T.t.</u>	<u>6-8</u>	<u>1200 / following Shrimp Trawler</u>

Observer(s) on duty A. Jackson / C. Leedy

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge: Archafalaya

Project: Calcasieu, 00-C-0016

" WEEKLY SUMMARY "

Dates 04/01/00 - 04/07/00 Load Numbers 146-156

Range of Water Temp., Surface 71°-72° Below Mid-Depth 69°-71°

Areas Worked (lat/longs, stations) 29°41'.27N/93°20'.20W / STA: 220-392

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? YES  NO

Comments (turtle takes, whale sightings, effectiveness of screening, by-catch, material, other info):

Dredge material - mud + silt.

ABIOTA: Net/Rope/Plastic/Trash/Wire/Cloth

BIOTA: Spider crabs (2) / Blue crabs (3) / mantis shrimp (3) / Sting ray (2) / Sargassum /  
Brown shrimp (1) / Tube worm (4) / worm sp (1) / fish sp (1) / crab sp (1) /  
Whale egg cases (2) /

See Daily for 04/05/00. For comments on possible turtle entails.

Bridge Watch Summary

Date	Various Species and Respective Number	Comments
<u>04/01 thru</u>	<u>Tursiops truncatus (#'s 1-2)</u>	<u>Have been seen everyday w/in close proximity or several hundred yards away. Behavior has varied from bow riding ships, behind shrimp boats, diving rolling at surface, spy-hopping. No change in behavior when near dredge.</u>
<u>04/07</u>		
<u>/</u>		
<u>/</u>		
<u>/</u>		

Observers on duty Chad Leady / A. Jackson

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=APR-14 13:03

END=APR-14 13:04

FILE NO.=756

STN NO.	COMM.	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	[087]	NMFS PETERSBERG	002/002	00:00:39

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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL HEADER SHEET						
COMMAND/ OFFICE		NAME/ OFFICE SYMBOL	OFFICE TELEPHONE NO. (AUTO/DIRECT/Comm.)	FAX NO. (AUTO/DIRECT/Comm.)		
FROM: ED CREEF		USACE	504-862-2521	504-862-2317		
TO: ERIC HAWK		NMFS				
CLASSIFICATION	PRIORITY	NO. PAGES (Including this Number)	DATE-TIME	MONTH	YEAR	RELEASER'S SIGNATURE
		2	14	4	00	
REMARKS						
Special format for Communications Center use only						

DA FORM 3818-R, JUL 80

DA FORM 3818-R, AUG 72 IS OBSOLETE

FORM 12.16

Eric,

This is a copy of the April 5, 2000 sea turtle report wherein a section of possible sea turtle gut was found in the hopper dredge inflow screen at the Calcasieu River bar channel.

Ed Creef  
USACE  
New Orleans District

## Creef, Edward D MVN

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**From:** Eric Hawk [Eric.Hawk@noaa.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2000 2:08 PM  
**To:** Creef, Edward D  
**Cc:** cslay@att.net  
**Subject:** Re: New Orleans District Calcasieu Bar Channel Dredging

NMFS will not consider this a turtle take, though it might well be. We will generally not charge you with a take if the evidence does not strongly support it. In this case, the I.D. is not positive, though the observer suspects it was from a sea turtle.

Were we to encounter several such incidents of "probable, but not positive" takes, we would likely reconsider our options, and maybe charge the District with a take for every x number of "probables." x would be a hard number to come up with, but unless other activities were taking place, and could be documented, that were taking turtles, then dredging would be the likely culprit.

Different observers have different degrees of necropsy experience. Some have attended formal courses, others have learned on the job or with stranding network necropsies, etc. Observers, in my opinion, are overall unlikely to call it a take unless they are pretty certain of it.

Reply Separator

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**Subject:** New Orleans District Calcasieu Bar Channel Dredging  
**Author:** Edward.D.Creef@mvn02.usace.army.mil at EXTERNAL  
**Date:** 4/14/2000 2:03 PM

Eric,

I just received a bunch of Sea Turtle Observer Reports from the hopper dredge currently working in the Calcasieu River bar channel. The report for April 5 hopper dredging activities noted that a portion of gut was recovered from the inflow screens. The observer notes that he believes that it may be from a sea turtle, but a positive ID couldn't be made. I'm FAXing you this report so you can see what was noted. The question is, does this equate to a turtle take?

Just out of curiosity, generally how well versed are sea turtle observers in the comparative anatomy of sea turtles versus other large marine organisms that might be present in the Gulf of Mexico? Since they deal with turtle parts I'm assuming that they have had some sort of training in this regards, but I'm also figuring that this training pretty much would vary with the individual and their respective experiences.

Anyway, let me know what you decide in terms of Sea Turtle Take or not a Take. Thanks.

Ed Creef  
USACE/NOD  
504-862-2521