GULF COAST TRAILING COMPANY
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Weekly Report

Endangered Species Observer Program

(Sea Turtles, Whales, Manatees, Short-nose Sturgeon)

WINYAH BAY ENTRANCE CHANNEL, GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA
DACW 60-90-c-0067

Report Number: 1

Period of Report: 1400 24 October - 0700 31 October 1990

Dredge Loads Included: 36 -

Incidents of Concern: 1) No incidents relative to sea turtles were recorded during this period. 2) Two right whales were sighted by a trawler approx. 2 miles north of the Channel (+ 1/4 mile offshore) late in the afternoon of 10/29/90. Trawler reported sightings to Ouachita the next morning - 10/30/90. Most probably the same mother/calf reported seen off Myrtle Beach the previous week by a local newspaper.
3) Incident - The rear half of an Atlantic sturgeon (64 cm long) was retrieved from the overflow screen during load # 81 - 10/30/90. Specimen was fresh, apparently killed by dredge.

General Observations: Screening - The screening of overflow was reduced to 50% for 24 hrs. beginning with load #56 (the first cut of Sect #1) when clogging of overflow by wood and grass debris brought dredging operations to a standstill. 100% screening was resumed with load #73 but we once again encountered obstruction of the overflow. A compromise was reached, with 75% of the overflow screened. Right whales - Visual confirmation of right whale sightings was never made from the dredge thus the contractor didn't feel compelled to slow night time dump runs. Given the location of the whales reported by the trawler, observers have reservations about this decision. All in all, Gulf Coast Trailing, and especially the Capt. and crew of the dredge "Ouachita", have been very cooperative with observer efforts.

Observer Name	Observer Signature	Date Signed
Christopher K. Slay	CK Slay	10/30/90
Joseph S. Ferris		10/30/90