ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Project: St. Simon's Channel, Brunswick, GA

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACTIVITY

Date 12 / 23 / 99 Time(24hr) 2120

Species of Turtle Taken Kemps Ridley (Lepidochelys kempii)

Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) St. Simon's Channel, Brunswick, GA

Location of Take: Latitude 31°05'04"N Longitude 81°18'18" W

Vessel Name and Company Dredge Newport, Manson

Type of Dredging Activity maintenance

Load # 63 Times: Start 1945 End 2050 Dump 2121

Sampling Method (overflow, inflow,etc.) inflow, overflow

Samples Recovered From port inflow

Condition of Screening excellent

Draghead Deflector? Yes X No

Condition of Deflector excellent

Weather Conditions moon = waning, 1 day after full sky = clear, seas = 1-3, wind = 15-20 NNW Tide

Water Temperature: Surface 58°F Column C or (F) (circle one)

Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled NOT A FRESH KILL:

cuticle on plastron is delaminating, no fresh blood but soft tissue pinkish.,

Measurements--

Give estimate of entire carapace dimensions, as well as fragments sampled (in metric when possible, indicate if not):

Head Width N/A (head missing)

Plastron Length 30 cm Width ≈ 34 cm

Carapace S. L. Length 41.5 cm S.L. Width ≈ 19.5 (x2) to center

Carapace O.C. Length 43 cm O.C. Width N/A

Turtle Tagged? Yes ✓ No Tag # SSW222 Tag Date / /

Comments

This was not a fresh kill. Cause of mortality is unknown. The tagged flipper was removed and stored in a freezer. The remains were weighted and disposed of at the dumpsite at: 31°02'20" N 81°17'04" W

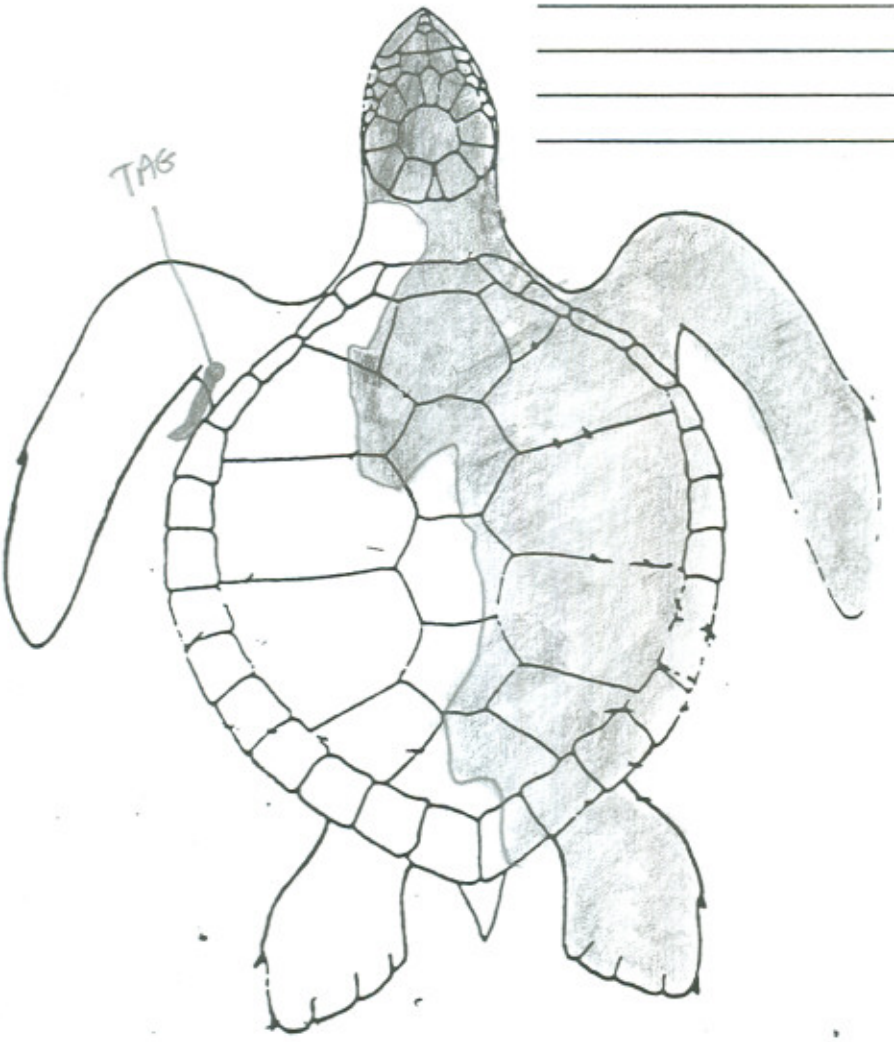
Observer's Name Meghan Piercy, Mary Hart

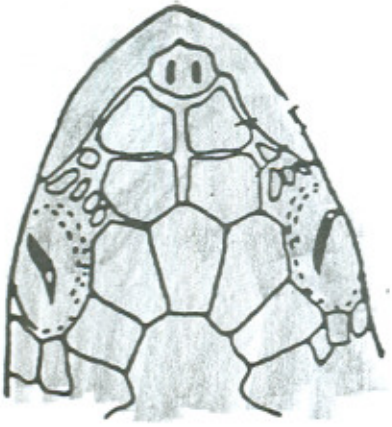
Lepidochelys kempii (Kemp's ridley)

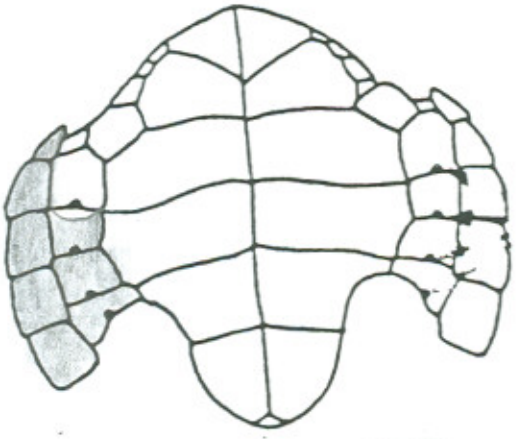
Shade areas of turtle which are missing. Sketch cracks and lacerations.

Comments:

Dredge Newport
St. Simons Channel
12-23-99
TAG # = SSW222
No Head, No Right Foreflipper







ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge: Newport

Project: Brunswick, GA

Date: 12/23/99

Load # 63 Times: Start 1945 End 2050 Dump 2121

Location(lat/long) -23+50 - -34+00 Tide

Weather clear, seas = 1-2, wind =

H_2O Surf.Temp(C) 58°F Time Below Mid-Depth(C) Time

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes X No

Port Draghead: Ø Deflector: OK

Stbd Draghead: Ø Deflector: OK

Port Discharge, Fore: immature Kemps Ridley Sea Turtle Mid:

Port Discharge, Aft: Ø

Stbd Discharge, Fore: wood, whelks, whelk eggs, Mid:

Stbd Discharge, Aft: Ø

Port (Fore)Skimmer: wood, H.S. crab

Stbd (Aft) Skimmer: " "

Comments: Immature Kemps Ridley was NOT a fresh kill:

- grey colored Carapace w/ cuticle GONE
- cuticle of plastron delaminating
- no fresh blood
- strong odor of decomposition

31°05'04" N 81°18'18" W

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observers On Duty: M. Piercy

ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge Newport

Project St. Simon's Channel, Brunswick, GA

DAILY REPORT

Date: 12/23/99 **Loads:** 54-63

Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): -23+00 to -34+00

Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): Pc-overcast, seas=1-3, wind=N@ 12-20K

Range of H_2O Temperature (C): Surface 58°-60°F Below Mid-Depth 59°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: EXCELLENT

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes X No

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

A Kemps Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) was found in the forward port inflow during load # 63. This was not a fresh kill and the cause of mortality is unknown. It was tagged with #: SSW222. The tagged flipper (left forward) was removed and stored in a freezer. See incident report. The remains were weighted down and disposed of at the dumpsite (on 12/24) at:

Other biological specimens retained by screening included: Horseshoe crabs, Lightening whelks, whelk eggs, Blue crab, Sea grass, Bryozoans, Octopus, Sea whips, and wood.

Monofilament line, wire mesh and plastics were also retained.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observers On Duty: M. Piercy, M. Hart

week 2

3 TURTLES

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge: Newport

Project: St. Simons Channel, Brunswick, GA

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates 12/20/99 - 12/26/99 Load Numbers 36 - 91

Range of Water Temp., Surface 56 - 60.5°F Below Mid-Depth 56 - 60°F

Areas Worked (lat/longs, stations) Stations -22+50 to -34+00

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **YES** **NO**

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

Three sea turtle carcases were retained by screening, including:

(1) 12/20/99 = subadult Loggerhead (Caretta caretta) = fresh kill (load # 45)

(2) 12/21/99 = adult Loggerhead (Caretta caretta) = fresh kill (load # 50)

(3) 12/23/99 = Kemp's Ridley (Lepidochelys kempii) = NOT fresh kill and cause of mortality cannot be definitively attributed to dredging activity. The Kemp's Ridley had a tag on its left foreflipper bearing the # SWW222. There was no fresh blood, the soft tissues were pink and noticably soft to the touch. (load # 63)

After the second turtle was taken, dredging activity ceased until the services of the trawler "Georgia Bulldog" were employed and they began work in the afternoon of 12/22/99. Their only catch was a Loggerhead Sea Turtle caught on 12/23/99 which was released further out to sea.

Other biological specimens retained by screening included: Horseshoe crabs, Blue Crabs, Sea whips, Seagrass, sea cucumbers, Lightening whelks, whelk eggs, tubers, sea stars, dive shells, scallops, Octopus, Bryozoans, dogfish and wood.

Bridge Watch Summary

Date	Various Species and Respective Number	Comments
*12/21	(12/20) Caretta caretta turtle was weighted & disposed of	@ 31°01'35"N & 81°12'56"W
*12/21	(12/21) Caretta caretta turtle was weighted & disposed of	@ 31°01'28"N & 81°12'43"W
12/20	Tursiops truncatus (Bottlenose dolphin) 40-50	= most feeding on shoal
*12/24	(12/23) Kemps Ridley turtle was weighted & disposed of	@ 31°02'20"N & 81°17'04"W
12/24	Tursiops truncatus (Bottlenose dolphin) 3 total	1 @ dump & 2 riding wake of car carrier
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Observers on duty Meghan Piercy, Mary Hart