



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 60267  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

November 20, 2006

Operations Division  
Technical Support Branch

Dr. Roy Crabtree  
Regional Director  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Dr. Roy Crabtree:

To fulfill requirements of the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) "for sea turtle takes resulting from Hopper Dredging activities" dated November 19, 2003, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN), is forwarding the Annual Report summarizing Fiscal Year 2006 hopper dredging projects. The CEMVN submits this report to comply with requirements described in reasonable and prudent measure 9 of the ITS. During Fiscal Year 2006 Federal maintenance conducted with hopper dredges, there was one recorded take of a Kemp's ridley sea turtle in the CEMVN.

This report is intended to complement project reports previously transmitted to your office. If you have questions regarding this report, please contact Mr. Edward Creef at (504) 862-2521.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda G. Mathies".

Linda G. Mathies  
Chief, Environmental Function

Attachment

ANNUAL SEA TURTLE REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2006

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

Operations Technical Support Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
(504)862-2521

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report is submitted to fulfill requirements of the Endangered Species Act and the Section 7 Consultation - Biological Opinion concerning Dredging of Gulf of Mexico Navigation Channels and Sand Mining ("Borrow") Areas Using Hopper Dredges by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, and Jacksonville Districts (Consultation Number F/SER/2000/01287) dated November 19, 2003, and revised on June 24, 2005. The New Orleans District (CEMVN) submits this annual report summarizing Fiscal Year 2006 (FY 06) hopper dredging projects and incidental sea turtle takes to fulfill reasonable and prudent measure 8 of the Incidental Take Statement.

## **JUSTIFICATION FOR FY 06 HOPPER DREDGE USE IN CEMVN**

The use of hopper dredges to maintain bar channels of the CEMVN's navigation channels is necessary because of three factors: safety, weather conditions, and productivity.

1. Hopper dredges must be utilized in the bar channels for safety. The dredges working in these channels must be highly mobile to rapidly maneuver out of the way of other vessels. Pipeline cutterhead dredges are not highly mobile and are held into position with spuds. This prevents the pipeline cutterhead dredge from quickly moving out of the channel when other vessels approach. In the Mississippi River, Southwest Pass (MR-SWP), dredge mobility is critical during high shoaling periods when multiple dredges share the navigation channel with the shipping traffic and at the entrance to the jetty reach of the MR-SWP where vessels must make a sharp turn to continue upriver.

2. The second reason hopper dredges are necessary to maintain CEMVN's bar channels is their ability to rapidly mobilize and demobilize in harsh weather. Rapidly changing, rough sea conditions in the open Gulf of Mexico create dangerous working conditions for the pipeline cutterhead dredges, which are not ocean going vessels, are anchored in place to work, and cannot sail like the hopper dredges. Rough sea conditions also break up discharge pipeline. For this reason, hopper dredges are used exclusively for maintenance work in the Calcasieu River bar channel and primarily for maintenance work in the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet (MR-GO) bar channel.

3. The third reason hopper dredges are necessary to maintain bar channels in the CEMVN is the high productivity necessary to maintain project depths, especially in the MR-SWP. In the MR-SWP, during periods of high shoaling, the exclusive use of pipeline cutterhead dredges could result in shipping delays or channel closures. Shoals are removed from the MR-SWP on an as-needed basis and during rapid shoaling conditions hopper dredges are deployed and re-deployed rapidly to maintain project depth.

On January 13, 1997, the National Marine Fisheries Service advised CEMVN by letter that further observer deployment in the MR-SWP would be unnecessary. This decision came in response to both a habitat characterization study conducted by CEMVN, which indicated that the MR-SWP was not a suitable habitat for sea turtles, and 1996 sea turtle observer reports that

confirmed the lack of sea turtle presence and the scarcity of sea turtle prey species in the MR-SWP.

## **FY 06 HOPPER DREDGE MAINTENANCE DREDGING SUMMARY**

During FY 06, hopper dredges were deployed for 2 maintenance dredging efforts in the Calcasieu River bar channel (Figure 1). Hopper dredges were deployed for 7 maintenance dredging efforts in the MR-SWP channel (Figure 2).

### **CALCASIEU RIVER AND PASS, LA, BAR CHANNEL**

A. During FY 06, 2 separate hopper dredging efforts were performed in the Calcasieu River bar channel. The first hopper dredging job used hopper dredges PADRE ISLAND and NEWPORT. The PADRE ISLAND performed maintenance dredging in the Calcasieu River bar channel Mile -1.9 to Mile -16.0 reach from October 13, 2005, through December 15, 2005; the NEWPORT performed maintenance dredging in the Calcasieu River bar channel Mile -11.0 to Mile -20.2 reach from December 30, 2005, through February 3, 2006.

B. The second hopper dredging job used hopper dredges ATCHAFALAYA and COLUMBIA. The ATCHAFALAYA performed maintenance dredging in the Calcasieu River bar channel Mile -2.1 to Mile -5.1 reach from June 14, 2006, through July 17, 2006. The COLUMBIA performed maintenance dredging in the Calcasieu River bar channel Mile -2.1 to Mile -5.1 reach from August 16, 2006, through September 13, 2006.

For additional information, reference the project dredging reports 06-1-Calc and 06-2-Calc forwarded to your office on March 9, 2006, and October 12, 2006, respectively.

### **MISSISSIPPI RIVER, SOUTHWEST PASS, LA**

During FY 06, hopper dredging was performed in the MR-SWP Head of Passes, jetty, and bar channel reaches from September 2005 through September 2006 under 5 contracts. The Government hopper dredges WHEELER and MCFARLAND also performed maintenance dredging operations in the MR-SWP during this period.

## **FY 06 INCIDENTAL TAKE SUMMARY**

During FY 06, only 1 Kemp's ridley sea turtle was incidentally taken by a hopper dredge working in the CEMVN. This incidental take occurred on Calcasieu River bar channel by the hopper dredge COLUMBIA on September 10, 2006.

## **RELOCATION TRAWLING SUMMARY**

During FY 06, no sea turtle relocation trawling was performed for hopper dredging jobs in the CEMVN.

## **SEA TURTLE STRANDING and SALVAGE NETWORK SUMMARY**

Throughout FY 06 hopper dredging work, CEMVN maintained close coordination with the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network in Louisiana (Michelle Kelley of the Aquarium of the Americas). There were no reports of stranded turtles that bore injuries consistent with a potential encounter with a hopper dredge for Calcasieu River bar channel work.

## **FY 06 REALLOCATION OF SEA TURTLES SUMMARY**

During FY 06, CEMVN reallocated several of its allowable species specific sea turtle incidental take limits to other Corps of Engineers Gulf of Mexico Districts: 2 loggerhead sea turtles and 1 Kemp's ridley sea turtle to Jacksonville District; 2 Kemp's ridleys to Mobile District; and 2 green sea turtles to Galveston District.

## **FY 06 SUMMARY**

During FY 06 CEMVN hopper dredging efforts, only 1 incidental take of a Kemp's ridley sea turtle was recorded in the Calcasieu River bar channel. No hopper dredging work was performed in the MR-GO bar channel. No sea turtle relocation trawling was performed for hopper dredging work in the CEMVN.

During the FY 95 through FY 06 time period, the CEMVN has documented 60 sea turtle incidental takes: 5 sea turtle incidental takes have occurred in the Calcasieu River bar channel, and 55 sea turtle incidental takes have occurred in the MR-GO bar channel. Summary information regarding CEMVN sea turtle takes by fiscal year, by project, and by hopper dredge is provided in Appendix A.

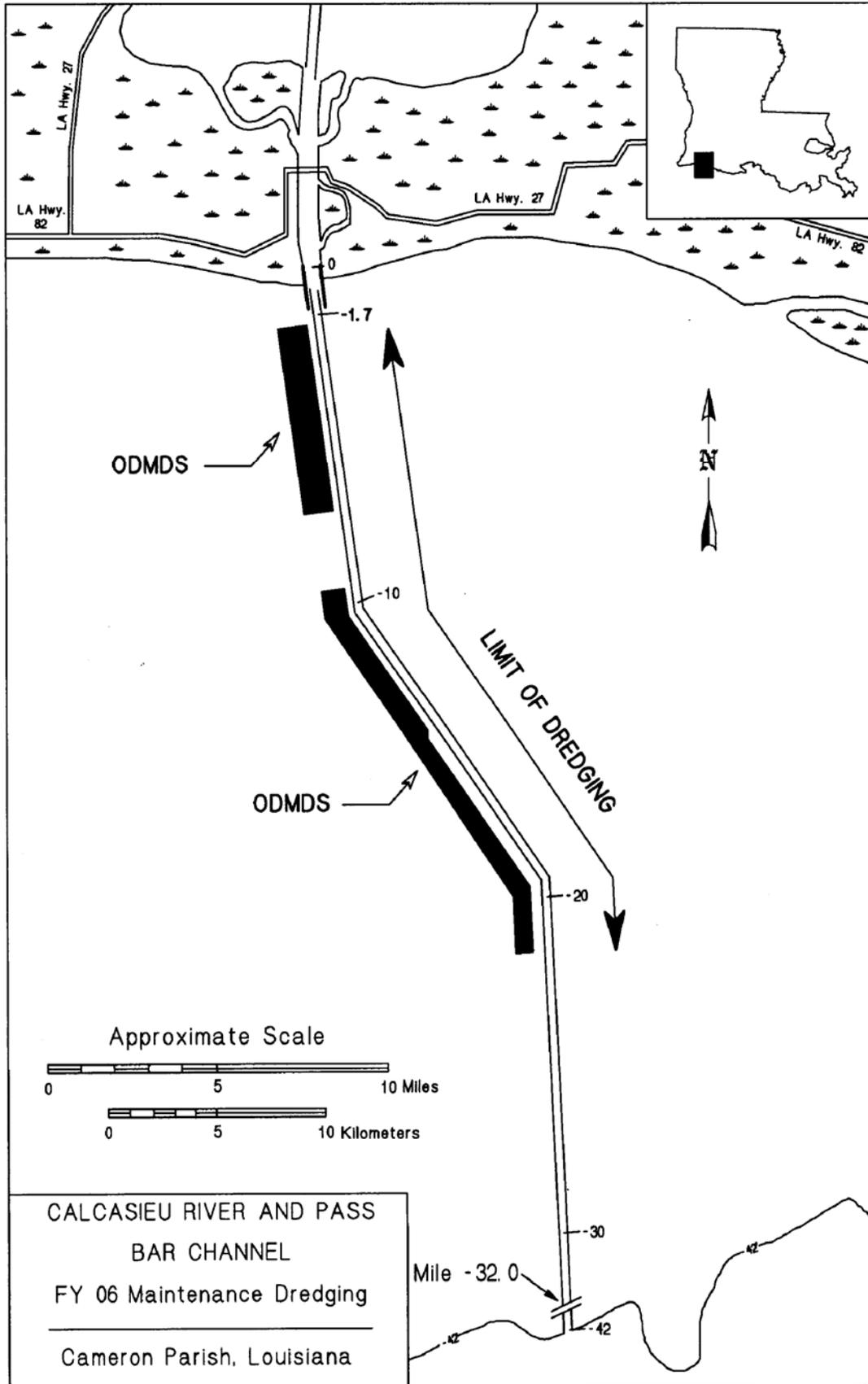


Figure 1

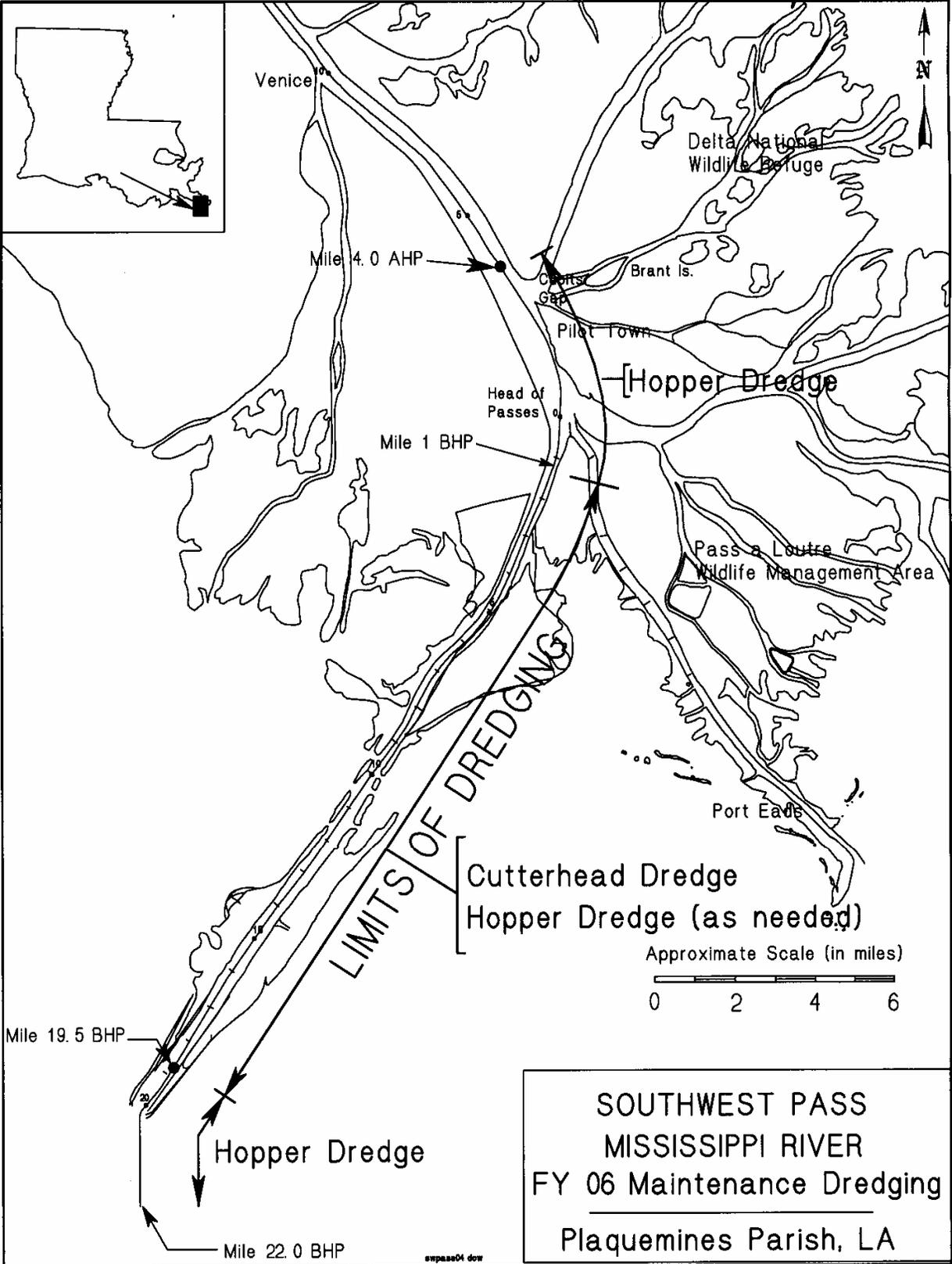


Figure 2

**APPENDIX A**

**SEA TURTLE TAKES BY FISCAL YEAR, PROJECT,  
and HOPPER DREDGE**

TABLE 2

## TURTLE TAKES BY PROJECT

Species and Authorized Incidental Take per Fiscal Year					
Date Taken	Kemp's ridley (7)	Loggerhead (15)	Green (3)	Hawksbill (1)	Unknown
<b>Fiscal Year 1995</b>					
<b>Total FY 95</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Fiscal Year 1996</b>					
MR-GO					
23 Sep 1996					1
<b>Total FY 96</b>					<b>1</b>
<b>Fiscal Year 1997</b>					
MR-GO					
22 Oct 1996		1			
26 Oct 1996		1			
27 Oct 1996		1			
14 Nov 1996		1			
08 Dec 1996		1			
<b>Total FY 97</b>		<b>5</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year 1998</b>					
MR-GO					
31 Oct 1997	1				
01 Apr 1998		1			
05 Apr 1998		1			
11 Apr 1998		1			
13 Apr 1998		1			
19 Jun 1998	1				
13 Jul 1998		1			
<b>Total FY 98</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>			

Table 2 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley (7)	Loggerhead (15)	Green (3)	Hawksbill (1)	Unknown
<b>Fiscal Year 1999</b>					
MR-GO					
7 Oct 1998	1				
13 Apr 1999	1				
<b>Total FY 99</b>	<b>2</b>				
<b>Fiscal Year 2000</b>					
MR-GO					
15 Apr 2000		1			
CALCASIEU RIVER					
17 Apr 2000	1				
<b>Total FY 00</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year 2001</b>					
MR-GO					
24 Apr 2001	1				
27 Apr 2001		1			
29 Apr 2001		1			
2 May 2001		1			
4 May 2001		1			
25 May 2001		2			
26 May 2001		1			
28 May 2001		1			
29 May 2001		1			
10 June 2001		1			
24 July 2001		1			

Table 2 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley (7)	Loggerhead (15)	Green (3)	Hawksbill (1)	Unknown
<b>CALCASIEU RIVER</b>					
4 Nov 2000	1				
<b>Total FY 01</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>					
MR-GO					
9 May 2002		1			
14 Oct 2002		1			
<b>CALCASIEU RIVER</b>					
14 May 2002	1				
<b>Total FY 02</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>					
MR-GO					
11 Apr 2003		1			
4 May 2003		1			
5 May 2003		1			
1 Jun 2003		1			
7 Jun 2003		1			
10 Jun 2003		1			
22 Jun 2003		1			
1 Jul 2003		1			
10 Sep 2003		1			
13 Sep 2003		1			
<b>Total FY 03</b>		<b>10</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>					
<b>CALCASIEU RIVER</b>					
19 Mar 2004	1				
<b>Total FY 04</b>	<b>1</b>				

Table 2 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley (7)	Loggerhead (15)	Green (3)	Hawksbill (1)	Unknown
<b>Fiscal Year 2005</b>					
MR-GO					
3 Oct 2004		1			
6 Oct 2004		1			
7 Oct 2004		1			
12 Oct 2004		1			
16 Oct 2004		1			
19 Oct 2004		1			
22 Oct 2004		1			
3 Nov 2004		1			
8 Nov 2004		1			
13 Nov 2004		1			
30 Nov 2004		1			
6 Dec 2004		2			
25 Jan 2005			1		
18 Aug 2005		1			
<b>Total FY 05</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Fiscal Year 2006</b>					
CALCASIEU RIVER					
10 Sep 2006	1				
<b>Total FY 06</b>	<b>1</b>				

**Take Totals FY95-FY06**

	<b>Kemp's ridley</b>	<b>Loggerhead</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Hawksbill</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
<b>MR-GO</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CALCASIEU RIVER</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

TABLE 1

## TURTLE TAKES BY FISCAL YEAR

## Species and Authorized Incidental Take per Fiscal Year

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley (7)	Loggerhead (15)	Green (3)	Hawksbill (1)	Unknown
<b>Fiscal Year 1995</b>					
<b>Total FY 95</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Fiscal Year 1996</b>					
23 Sep 1996					1
<b>Total FY 96</b>					<b>1</b>
<b>Fiscal Year 1997</b>					
22 Oct 1996		1			
26 Oct 1996		1			
27 Oct 1996		1			
14 Nov 1996		1			
08 Dec 1996		1			
<b>Total FY 97</b>		<b>5</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year 1998</b>					
31 Oct 1997	1				
01 Apr 1998		1			
05 Apr 1998		1			
11 Apr 1998		1			
13 Apr 1998		1			
19 Jun 1998	1				
13 Jul 1998		1			
<b>Total FY 98</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year 1999</b>					
7 Oct 1998	1				
13 Apr 1999	1				
<b>Total FY 99</b>	<b>2</b>				

Table 1 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley (7)	Loggerhead (15)	Green (3)	Hawksbill (1)	Unknown
<b>Fiscal Year 2000</b>					
15 Apr 2000		1			
17 Apr 2000	1				
<b>Total FY 00</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year 2001</b>					
4 Nov 2000	1				
24 Apr 2001	1				
27 Apr 2001		1			
29 Apr 2001		1			
2 May 2001		1			
4 May 2001		1			
25 May 2001		2			
26 May 2001		1			
28 May 2001		1			
29 May 2001		1			
10 June 2001		1			
24 July 2001		1			
<b>Total FY 01</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>					
9 May 2002		1			
14 May 2002	1				
14 Oct 2002		1			
<b>Total FY 02</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>			

Table 1 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley (7)	Loggerhead (15)	Green (3)	Hawksbill (1)	Unknown
<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>					
11 Apr 2003		1			
4 May 2003		1			
5 May 2003		1			
1 Jun 2003		1			
7 Jun 2003		1			
10 Jun 2003		1			
22 Jun 2003		1			
1 Jul 2003		1			
10 Sep 2003		1			
13 Sep 2003		1			
<b>Total FY 03</b>		<b>10</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year 2004</b>					
20 Mar 2004	1				
<b>Total FY 04</b>	<b>1</b>				
<b>Fiscal Year 2005</b>					
3 Oct 2004		1			
6 Oct 2004		1			
7 Oct 2004		1			
12 Oct 2004		1			
16 Oct 2004		1			
19 Oct 2004		1			
22 Oct 2004		1			
3 Nov 2004		1			
8 Nov 2004		1			
13 Nov 2004		1			
30 Nov 2004		1			
6 Dec 2004		2			
25 Jan 2005			1		
18 Aug 2005		1			
<b>Total FY 05</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>		

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley (7)	Loggerhead (15)	Green (3)	Hawksbill (1)	Unknown
<b>Fiscal Year 2006</b>					
10 Sep 2006	1				
<b>Total FY 06</b>	<b>1</b>				

**Total Sea Turtle Takes for New Orleans District from FY 95 through FY 06**

	Kemp's ridley	Loggerhead	Green	Hawksbill	Unknown
<b>Total Take FY95-FY06</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

TABLE 3

## TURTLE TAKES BY DREDGE

## Species and Authorized Incidental Take per Fiscal Year

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley (7)	Loggerhead (15)	Green (3)	Hawksbill (1)	Unknown
<i>Atchafalaya</i>					
17 Apr 00	1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>				
<i>Bayport</i>					
11 Apr 03		1			
4 May 03		1			
5 May 03		1			
1 Jun 03		1			
7 Jun 03		1			
10 Jun 03		1			
22 Jun 03		1			
1 Jul 03		1			
8 Nov 04		1			
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>			
<i>B.E. Lindholm/ Ouachita</i>					
08 Dec 96		1			
13 Apr 99	1				
4 Nov 00	1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>			
<i>Columbia</i>					
10 Sep 06	1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>				
<i>Dodge Island</i>					
14 May 02	1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>				

Table 3 continued

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley (7)	Loggerhead (15)	Green (3)	Hawksbill (1)	Unknown
<i>Eagle I</i>					
31 Oct 97	1				
9 May 02		1			
6 Oct 04		1			
7 Oct 04		1			
12 Oct 04		1			
30 Nov 04		1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>			
<i>Manhattan Island</i>					
22 Oct 96		1			
14 Nov 96		1			
24 Jul 01		1			
22 Oct 04		1			
3 Nov 04		1			
13 Nov 04		1			
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>			
<i>McFarland</i>					
01 Apr 98		1			
05 Apr 98		1			
11 Apr 98		1			
13 Apr 98		1			
19 Jun 98	1				
13 Jul 98		1			
15 Apr 00		1			
24 Apr 01	1				
27 Apr 01		1			
29 Apr 01		1			

Table 3 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley (7)	Loggerhead (15)	Green (3)	Hawksbill (1)	Unknown
<i>McFarland continued</i>					
2 May 01		1			
4 May 01		1			
25 May 01		1			
26 May 01		1			
28 May 01		1			
29 May 01		1			
10 Jun 01		1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>			
<i>Newport</i>					
14 Oct 02		1			
1 Jul 03		1			
3 Oct 04		1			
16 Oct 04		1			
19 Oct 04		1			
6 Dec 04		2			
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>			
<i>Padre Island</i>					
26 Oct 96		1			
27 Oct 96		1			
25 Jan 05			1		
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		
<i>Stuyvesant</i>					
23 Sep 96					1
19 Mar 04	1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>				<b>1</b>

Table 3 continued.

Date Taken	Kemp's ridley (7)	Loggerhead (15)	Green (3)	Hawksbill (1)	Unknown
<i>Wheeler</i>					
07 Oct 98	1				
10 Sep 03		1			
13 Sep 03		1			
18 Aug 05		1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>			