ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge MANHATTAN IS Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District - Summer/Fall 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 10 / 22 / 96 Loads: 020 - 036

Area(s) Worked: STATIONS 3815+00 → 3750+00 & 3815+00 → 3770+00

Weather Conditions: WINDS S/SW-N/NE @ 10-27K, SEAS < 4', SKY PTLY CLDY-RAIN-CLDY, 69-80°F

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 72-75°F Below Mid-Depth 72-75°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: EXCELLENT - A SMALL REPAIR OF THE FORWARD PORT DISCHARGE SCREENING WAS COMPLETED B/T LOADS 026 & 027.

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

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

THE DREDGED MATERIAL CONTINUES TO BE A MIX OF FINE SAND AND SILT. THE SMALL AMOUNT OF DEBRIS TAKEN TODAY INCLUDES MONOFILAMENT FISHING LINE, SHELL (SAW-TOOTH OEN, LIGHTNING WHELK), PLASTIC (HARD & SOFT), WOOD, ROPE, FISHING/TRAWL NETTING, WIRE, GRASS, ALUMINUM CAN & PLASTIC EYE GLASSES.

THE INCIDENTAL BIOLOGICAL TAKES INCLUDED ONE(1) LESSER ELECTRIC RAY, SIX (6 UNID'D RAYS, AND ONE(1) UNID'D CRAB. ALSO, ONE(1) LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE (Sp Cc) WAS TAKEN W/ LOAD 029 (SEE ATTACHED INCIDENT REPORT).

THERE WERE NO TRAWLERS IN THE VICINITY OF THE WORK AREA TODAY OR SINCE THE START UP DATE ON 10/20/96.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tt (B. DOLPHIN)	2	6	IN CHANNEL W/I WORK AREA
YELLOW RUMPED WARBLER	1	1	ON BOARD

Observer(s) On Duty:

REMARKS

Space Below For Communications Center Use Only

DA FORM 3918-R, JUL 90 DA FORM 3918-R, AUG 72 IS OBSOLETE

Sea Turtle Take Report

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *MANHATTAN ISLAND* - Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District - Fall 1996

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 10 / 20 / 96 - 10 / 26 / 96 Loads: 001 – 077

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 69°F – 75°F Below Mid-Depth 69°F – 75°F

Area(s) Worked: 3750+00 → 3815+00, 3815+00 → 3770+00, 3785+00 → 3810+00

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

Comments: One Loggerhead sea turtle (Caretta caretta) was taken during load # 029 on 10/22/96. The turtle was dead and only four non-connecting sections of the carapace and one small length (≈ 1') of intestine were retained in the screening. All specimens taken, were weighted and disposed of at the dump site with load # 033. Beth Nord of the Technical Support Branch NOD USACOE and Coastwise Consulting were notified within one hour. The Manhattan Island continued to dredge until load # 038, then proceeded to the Mobile (AL) docks where TED's were installed on both dragheads. Since then, no turtles have been taken.

Materials being dredge consist of sand, silt, mud and a small amount of clay. Non-biological materials retained by screening were: plastics, monofilament fishing line, SS wire, SS banding, carpeting, netting, rubber hose, rope, plastic eyeglasses, cloth, molded fiberglass.

Biological specimens being retained by screening were: 1 longerhead sea turtle (described above), lightening whelks, sawtooth penshells, numerous stingrays (including Lesser Electric Stingrays), 3 skates, 1 eel, 1 28" red drum, unidentified crabs. On 10/26/96, vast amounts of dead fish floated amidst drifting botantical matter at the dredge site and dump. Dredge employees saw a report of possible red tide on the T.V. news.

All screening is in excellent working condition.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tursiops truncatus	8	43	all were seen in channel near work area, ≈ 6 individuals were small subadults

Observers On Duty: Meghan Piercy / Dana Ross