

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

DAILY REPORT

Date: 11 / 14 / 96 Loads: 312-326

Area(s) Worked: 3785+00 → 3810+00

Weather Conditions: Wind = E-NE @ 10-20K, seas = 2'-6', sky = P/C-Clear, 69°F-80°F

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 67°F Below Mid-Depth 67°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.): The remains of a Caretta caretta (Loggerhead Sea Turtle) were found in loads #312 and #318. Matching, the two sets of remains revealed that only one individual female was killed. In load #312, the aft/port intake discharge revealed the head, two foreflippers, marginal scutes associated with foreflippers and a section of plastron which included intergular, gular and humeral scutes. This anterior portion of the turtle also included a minimal amount of viscera which was greyish in color due to the "sand-blasting" effect. Species identification was based on two pairs of prefrontal scales, two visible claws on each foreflipper, and reddish-brown coloration. Water temperature at the time of the incidental take was 67°F (both surface and mid-depth). An incident report was faxed to Linda Mathies (USACE, New Orleans) within 2 hours and Coastwise Consulting was notified at 08:30. The remains were securely wrapped and placed in a freezer.

Load #318 contained the posterior section of the same Caretta caretta. This included two hind flippers and most of the plastron including 3 inframarginal scutes (without pores). The plastron was yellowish in color. Each hind flipper had two visible claws and were reddish brown on the dorsal side. The remains were discovered in the starboard aft

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observer(s) On Duty: Meghan Percy, Dana Ross

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

(Attach to reporting forms as necessary)

Dredge Manhattan Island

Project MRGO

Date: 11 14 196

inflow and the water temperature at the time of the incidental take was 67°F (both surface and mid-depth). The remains were matched with those of load 312 and revealed a perfect match. The intact tail was very short (approximately 3 cm) and we assume the individual was a female. All remains were weighted down with steel and dumped at the dump during load # 322 at 17:34 hours.

Other biological specimens retained by screening were: penshellis, moonsnail, wood, glass, 15 Unidentified Stingrays, 6 Atlantic stingrays, 1 Mackarel, unidentified viscera. Sheet metal and a draghead tooth (from the port draghead) were also found in Screening

Both Caretta caretta incident reports and photographs are attached here.

* Also: Newspaper reported relatively large scale red tide in the MRGO - this may explain the large quantities of dead fish over the last few days.

Observer(s) On Duty: Meghan Pierry / Dana Ross

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ED SPECIES OBSERVER PROG AM
Dredge MANHATTAN ISLAND - Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
USACE, New Orleans District - Fall 1996

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 11/10/96 - 11/16/96

Loads: 270-329

Range of H₂O Temperature: Surface 66°F - 72°F Below Mid-Depth 66°F - 72°F

Area(s) Worked: 3785+00 → 3810+00, 3880+00 → 3920+00

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

Comments: On 11/14/96 the remains of a Caretta caretta (Loggerhead Sea Turtle) were found in loads #312 and #318. Matching the two sets of remains revealed that only one sea turtle was killed. Load 312 contained the anterior portion and load 318 contained the posterior portion. Species identification was based on two pairs of prefrontal scales, two visible claws on each flipper (foreward and aft), reddish brown coloration on the dorsal side and yellowish brown coloration on the ventral side. For more information, see Daily Report with Incident Reports and accompanying photographs.

Dredged material has been fine sand and silt. Non-biological materials retained by screening were: cloth, plastics, steel pipe, rope, aluminum scraps, tin can, rubber, hydraulic fittings, sheet metal and a draghead tooth.

Biological specimens retained by screening in addition to the Caretta caretta were: wood, algae, grass, pen shells, moon snail, 2 Spotted Sea trout, 2 catfish, 38 Unidentified Rays, 4 Lesser Electric Rays, 17 Atlantic Rays, 8 Flounder, 2 Unidentified Fish, 1 Red Drum, 1 Unidentified Skate, 1 Redfish, 1 Mackerel, Unidentified Visera.

Section 3880+00 → 3920+00 was dredged on 11/13 during loads #309-310 as a result of a container ship being grounded in the channel.

On 11/10 the Tug Alice Moran hauled a barge with a load which reportedly (by Captain Russell) was leaking. The E.S. observer was checking screening at the dump and didn't notice leakage. The barge contents was vinyl acetate which crystallizes below 70°F. The temp. was 60°F. On 11/15 the New Orleans Times-Picayune reported a bad case of red tide in MRGO, which may explain large quantities of dead fish observed at the work area on 11/11 and 11/12. On 11/15-11/16 dredge refueled at Pilot House Anchorage.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Turcicus truncatus	4	23-25	Within project area
Various species of dead fish	2	2000+	seen off and on during the days of 11/11 and 11/12

Observers On Duty: Meghan Piercy / Dana Ross