

Project Report
ENDANGERED SPECIES MONITORING
Calcasieu River and Pass
Bar Channel
Maintenance Dredging
01-4-CAL

Operations Technical Support Branch
US 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 Incidental Take Statement (ITS) "for sea turtle takes resulting from Hopper Dredging activities" dated September 22, 1995. The New Orleans District submits this preliminary report summarizing the results of Fiscal Year 2001 maintenance dredging of the Calcasieu River and Pass, LA, bar channel by the Contract Dredge NEWPORT.

Scope of Work

Maintenance dredging of the Calcasieu River bar channel by the hopper dredge NEWPORT was conducted under contract DACW29-01-C-0057. The NEWPORT began work on August 3, 2001, and completed work on September 26, 2001. The NEWPORT conducted dredging between approximate channel Miles -0.0 and -10.2.

Maintenance dredging activities were conducted by the NEWPORT during the time period when sea turtle monitoring was required as described in the ITS. The results of monitoring are summarized in Table 1.

In 1995, and previous years, the National Marine Fisheries Service determined that listed whales are unlikely to be adversely affected by hopper dredging in the Gulf of Mexico. As a result, endangered species monitors for whales, bridge observers, were not required for this contract. Throughout the maintenance event, dredging operations were conducted following the items listed in reasonable and prudent measures 4. and 6. This included advising the Contractor of the potential presence of sea turtles in the navigation channel and reporting and operating requirements.

Methodology

The dredge worked in both agitation and dredge and haul mode. Material was deposited in the Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site located south of and parallel to the navigation channel (Figure 1). The NEWPORT was equipped with 4"x 4" inflow screens and sea turtle observers were on board monitoring for sea turtle takes between August 3, 2001, and September 26, 2001. The screens were inspected for sea turtles and sea turtle parts and cleared by hand of debris. Draghead deflectors were in use throughout dredging operations.

Results

The NEWPORT worked from August 3, 2001, to September 26, 2001, between Calcasieu River Miles 0.0 and -10.2. Approximately 4,836,960 cubic yards of shoal material were removed by agitation dredging, and approximately 240,480 cubic yards of shoal material were removed by dredge and haul operations conducted by the NEWPORT working under contract DACW29-01-C-0057.

During this maintenance event there were no documented incidental sea turtle takes and no sea turtles were sighted.

Throughout the dredging work both biological and non-biological debris was recovered from the screens. The biological material collected included sargassum, whelks, moon snails, gastropods, and bivalves. The majority of the non-biological debris consisted of assorted trash, plastic, wood, nets, line, cloth, and rope. The results of the screen monitoring are summarized in Table 1, and Endangered Species Observation Program Daily Reports are provided as Attachment 1.

Water temperatures ranged from a maximum surface water temperature of 89 degrees F (31.7 degrees C) to a minimum surface water temperature of 81 degrees F (27.2 degrees C). Below mid-depth water temperatures ranged from a maximum of 88 degrees F (31.1 degrees C) to a minimum of 80 degrees F (26.7 degrees C).

Bridge monitoring was conducted opportunistically.

Discussion

No sea turtle takes were recorded and no sea turtles were sighted during this dredging event. Temperature conditions during the maintenance event were well within range of sea turtle tolerances. Biological debris recovered from the in-flow screens that might serve as a food source for sea turtles was scarce.

Figure 1

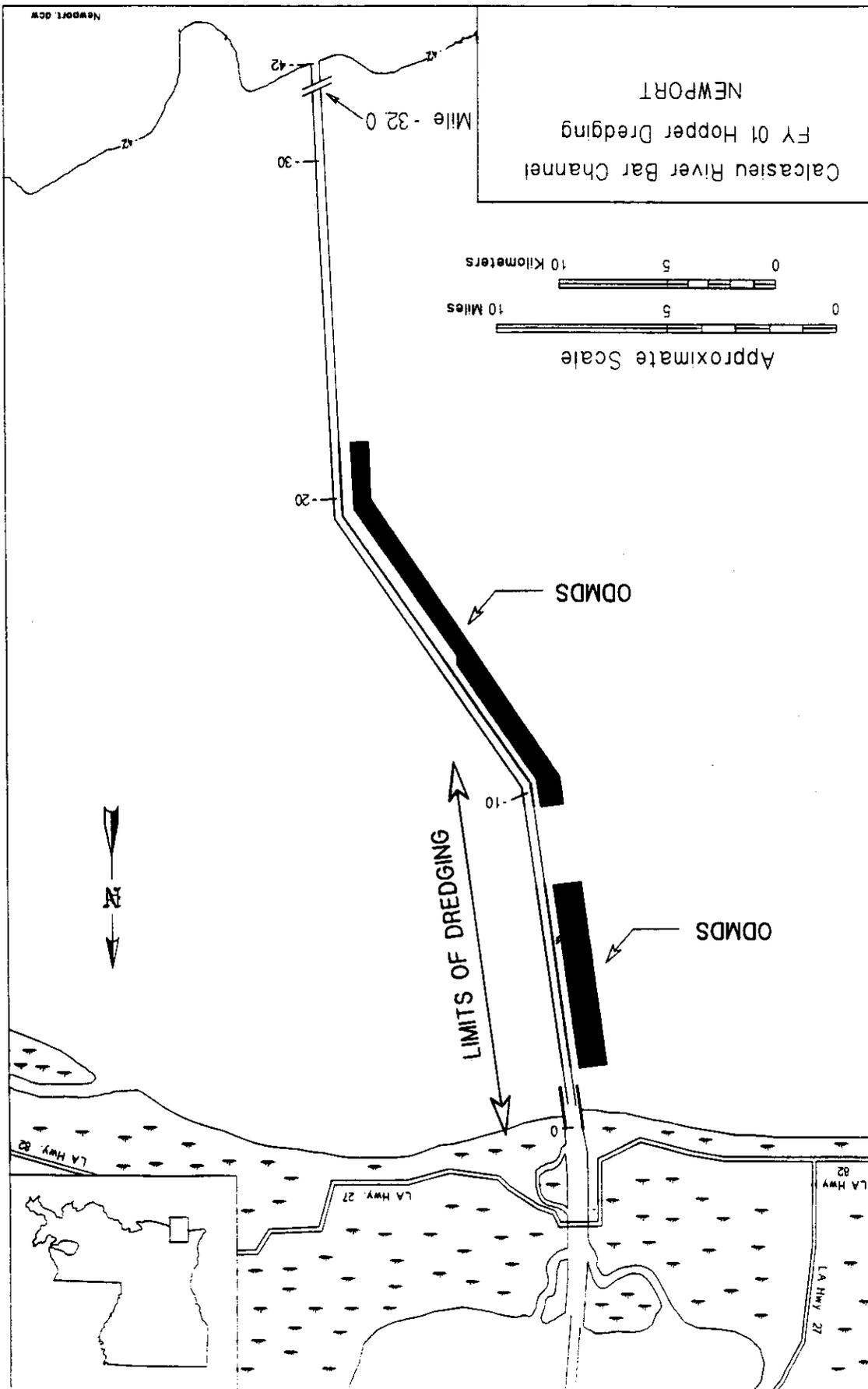


Table 1. Calcasieu FY 01 Sea Turtle Observer Reports for NEWPORT

| DATE | DREDGE | NOTES |
|----------------|---------|---|
| 3 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, fishing line, plastic, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 85°F (29.4°C) Surface Temp: 86°F (30°C) Weather: Seas 2-3', Winds 5-10 knots, Clear Other: Bottlenose dolphins (2) |
| 4 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Fish, sea grasses, whelk egg casings Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86°F (30°C) Surface Temp: 86°F (30°C) Weather: Seas 1-3', Winds 5 knots, Clear Other: Bottlenose dolphins (2-3) |
| 5 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Gastropods, fish, grass, whelk egg casings, plastic, fishing line, net, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86°F (30°C) Surface Temp: 86°F (30°C) Weather: Seas 3', Winds NE 10-15 knots, Hazy w/lightening Other: Bottlenose dolphins |
| 6 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Grass, moon snails, whelk egg casings, crab trap, plastic, line Below Mid-Depth Temp: 88°F (31.1°F) Surface Temperature: 89°F (31.7°F) Weather: Seas 1-3', Winds 5-10 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins |
| 7 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Gastropods, bivalves, sea grass, line, net, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86-87°F (30-30.6°C) Surface Temp: 87-88°F (30.6-31.1°F) Weather: Seas 3', Winds SW 5 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins |
| 8 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, sea grass, rope/line, net, clothing, scrap metal, wood, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 85-86°F (29.4-30°C) Surface Temp: 86-87°F (30-30.6°C) Weather: Seas 2-3', Winds SW 5 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins |
| 9 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Grass, gastropods, bivalves, plastic, line, wood, cloth, net Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86-87°F (30-30.6°C) Surface Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Weather: Seas 3', Winds SW 5 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins |
| 10 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Gastropods, sea grass, jack fish, rope/line, net, wood, clothing, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86°F (30°C) Surface Temp: 86°F (30°C) Weather: Seas 3', Winds SW 5 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins |
| 11 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Gastropods, bivalves, sea grass, rope/line, net, clothing, wood, metal, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86°F (30°C) Surface Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Weather: Seas 3', Winds SW 5 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (40-50) |

Table 1. Calcasieu FY 01 Sea Turtle Observer Reports for NEWPORT

| DATE | DREDGE | NOTES |
|----------------|---------|--|
| 12 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Moon snail, oyster shells, whelk egg casings, grass, trash, line, net, plastic Below Mid-Depth Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Surface Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Weather: Seas 3', Winds SW 10-15 knots, Cloudy w/storms Other: Bottlenose dolphins (40-50) |
| 13 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Moon snails, oyster shells, plastic, net, line, cloth, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Surface Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Weather: Seas 3', Winds SW 10 knots, Rain Other: Bottlenose dolphins (50) |
| 14 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Gastropods, sea grass, metal, wood, rope/line, net, clothing, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 85-87°F (29.4-30.6°C) Surface Temp: 86-87°F (30-30.6°C) Weather: Seas 1-3', Winds SW 5-15 knots, Partly cloudy w/rain Other: Bottlenose dolphins (50) |
| 15 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, sea grass, metal, wood, clothing, rope, fishing line, net, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 85°F (29.4°C) Surface Temperature: 86°F (30°C) Weather: Seas 1-2', Winds SW 10-15 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (40) |
| 16 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Moon snails, whelk egg casings, oyster shells, fishing equipment, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86°F (30°C) Surface Temp: 86-87°F (30-30.6°C) Weather: Seas 3', Winds SW 10 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (30-40) |
| 17 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Moon snails, whelk egg casings, oyster drill, oyster shells, net, plastic, fishing equipment Below Mid-Depth Temp: 85-86°F (29.4-30°C) Surface Temp: 86-87°F (30-30.6°C) Weather: Seas 2-3', Winds SW 10-15 knots, Clear Other: Bottlenose dolphins (50-60) |
| 18 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Moon snails, oyster drills, oyster, knobbed whelk, whelk egg casings, nets, line, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86°F (30°C) Surface Temp: 86-87°F (30-30.6°C) Weather: Seas 2', Winds SW 10 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (40) |
| 19 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Gastropods, bivalves, sea grass, net, rope, line, metal, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86°F (30°C) Surface Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Weather: Seas 1-3', Winds SW 10 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (60-70) |

Table 1. Calcasieu FY 01 Sea Turtle Observer Reports for NEWPORT

| DATE | DREDGE | NOTES |
|----------------|---------|--|
| 20 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, sea grass, rope/line, net, metal, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86°F (30°C) Surface Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Weather: Seas 1-2', Winds S-SW 5-10 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (60) |
| 21 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Oyster shell, moon snails, oyster drill, scallop shell, sargassum, whelk egg casings Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86-87°F (30-30.6°C) Surface Temp: 87-88°F (30.6-31.1°C) Weather: Seas 2', Winds 5-10 knots, Clear Other: Bottlenose dolphins (30-40) |
| 22 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, sea grass, rope, line, net, clothing, wood, metal, hose, cable, chain, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Surface Temp: 87-88°F (30.6-31.1°C) Weather: Seas 1-2', Winds NNW 5 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (70) |
| 23 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, sargassum, rope, net, line, wood, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Surface Temp: 88°F (31.1°C) Weather: Seas 1-2', Winds 5 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (50) |
| 24 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, sargassum, net, rope, line, clothing, metal, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Surface Temperature: 88°F (31.1°C) Weather: Seas 1-2', Winds S 5 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (50) |
| 25 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Whelk egg casings, bivalves, gastropods, sargassum, metal, net, rope, line, clothing, wood, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Surface Temp: 88°F (31.1°C) Weather: Seas 1-2', Winds S 5 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (50) |
| 26 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Gastropods, bivalves, net, rope, line, clothing, plastic, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 85-87°F (29.4-30.6°C) Surface Temp: 85-87°F (29.4-30.6°C) Weather: Seas 2', Winds SSW 10 knots, Cloudy w/rain Other: Bottlenose dolphins (50-60) |
| 27 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Gastropods, sargassum, net, rope, metal, line, clothing, wood, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86-87°F (30-30.6°C) Surface Temp: 86-87°F (30-30.6°C) Weather: Seas 2', Winds SE 10 knots, Cloudy w/rain Other: Bottlenose dolphins (40) |

Table 1. Calcasieu FY 01 Sea Turtle Observer Reports for NEWPORT

| DATE | DREDGE | NOTES |
|------------------|---------|---|
| 28 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, whelk egg casings, sargassum, net, rope, line, wood, metal, clothing, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86°F (30°C) Surface Temp: 86°F (30°C) Weather: Seas 2', Winds S 10-15 knots, Cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (25) |
| 29 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, whelk egg casings, gastropods, bivalves, plastic, nylon line, net, wood, metal, clothing, rubber Below Mid-Depth Temp: 84-85°F (28.9-29.4°C) Surface Temp: 84-85°F (28.9-29.4°C) Weather: Seas 2-4', Winds S-SE 10-15 knots, Rain Other: Bottlenose dolphins (10) |
| 30 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, sargassum, net, rope, line, metal, clothing, wire, crab traps, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 84-85°F (28.9-29.4°C) Surface Temp: 84-85°F (28.9-29.4°C) Weather: Seas 4', Winds SE 10-15 knots, Rain Other: Bottlenose dolphins (20-30) |
| 31 August 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, sargassum, net, rope, line, metal, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 85°F (29.4°C) Surface Temp: 85°F (29.4°C) Weather: Seas 4', Winds SE 15 knots, Rain Other: Bottlenose dolphins (10) |
| 1 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, sargassum, net, rope, line, clothing, metal, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 83-84°F (28.3-28.9°C) Surface Temp: 83-84°F (28.3-28.9°C) Weather: Seas 4-6', Winds variable 15 knots, Rain Other: Bottlenose dolphins (35-40) |
| 2 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, sargassum, net, line, rope, clothing, metal, wood, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 83°F (28.3°C) Surface Temperature: 83°F (28.3°C) Weather: Seas 4-6', Winds SW 15-20 knots, Rain Other: Bottlenose dolphins (20-30) |
| 3 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, bivalves, gastropods, net, line, chain, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 84°F (28.9°C) Surface Temp: 84°F (28.9°C) Weather: Seas 1-3', Winds SW-SSW 10-15 knots, Partly sunny Other: Bottlenose dolphins (35) |
| 4 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, whelk egg casings, bivalves, gastropods, net, line, cloth, wood, rope, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 84-87°F (28.9-31.1°C) Surface Temp: 84-87°F (28.9-31.1°C) Weather: Seas 2-3', Winds SSE-SW 5-10 knots, Cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (35) |

Table 1. Calcasieu FY 01 Sea Turtle Observer Reports for NEWPORT

| DATE | DREDGE | NOTES |
|-------------------|---------|---|
| 5 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, sargassum, net, rope, metal, line, clothing, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 85-86°F (29.4-30°C) Surface Temp: 85-86°F (29.4-30°C) Weather: Seas 1-2', Winds SSW 5-10 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (50) |
| 6 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, sargassum, net, rope, line, metal, wood, clothing, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 84-85°F (28.9-29.4°C) Surface Temp: 84-85°F (28.9-29.4°C) Weather: Seas 1-2', Winds SSE 5-10 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (20-30) |
| 7 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Molluscs, sargassum, rope, cable, cloth, nets, wood, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86°F (30°C) Surface Temp: 87°F (30.6°C) Weather: Seas 2-3', Winds S-SE 5-10 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (10-15) |
| 8 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, whelk egg casings, sargassum, net, rope, line, clothing, metal, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86°F (30°C) Surface Temp: 86-87°F (30-30.6°C) Weather: Seas 2-3', Winds SSW 5-10 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (20-30) |
| 9 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, cloth, rope, nets, wood, cable, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 86°F (30°C) Surface Temp: 84-86°F (28.9-30°C) Weather: Winds SE-NE 5-15 knots Other: Bottlenose dolphins (5-10) |
| 10 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Bivalves, gastropods, whelk egg casings, sargassum, net, rope, line, clothing, metal, hose, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 85-86°F (29.4-30°C) Surface Temp: 85-86°F (29.4-30°C) Weather: Seas 2-3', Winds NE 5-10 knots, Overcast Other: Bottlenose dolphins (50-60) |
| 11 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Whelk egg casings, rope, net, plastic, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: Surface Temperature: Weather: Seas 3', Winds NE 5-15 knots, Clear Other: Bottlenose dolphins (4-10) |
| 12 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, whelk egg casings, oyster drill, nets, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 82°F (27.8°C) Surface Temp: 83°F (28.3°C) Weather: Seas 3', Winds NE 10 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (40-50) |
| 13 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Knobbed whelk, oyster drill, ark shell, sargassum, fishing equipment, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 82°F (27.8°C) Surface Temp: 83°F (28.3°C) Weather: Seas 3-4', Winds NE 10-15 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (40-50) |

Table I. Calcasieu FY 01 Sea Turtle Observer Reports for NEWPORT

| DATE | DREDGE | NOTES |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| 14 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, whelk egg casings, net, line, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 82°F (27.8°C) Surface Temp: 82-83°F (27.8-28.3 °C) Weather: Other: Bottlenose dolphins (30) |
| 15 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Whelks, whelk egg casings, oyster drills, sargassum, ark clam, line, net, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 82-83°F (27.8-28.3 °C) Surface Temp: 82-83°F (27.8-28.3 °C) Weather: Seas 3-4', Winds NE 10-20 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (25-30) |
| 16 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, whelks, net, rope, line, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 82°F (27.8°C) Surface Temp: 82-83°F (27.8-28.3 °C) Weather: Seas 2-3', Winds variable 10 knots, Other: Bottlenose dolphins (30) |
| 17 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, whelk, oyster drill, ark clam, oyster shell, line, net, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 81-82°F (27.2-27.8°C) Surface Temp: 82-83°F (27.8-28.3 °C) Weather: Seas 2-3', Winds, SE 10 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (30-40) |
| 18 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Whelks, shell, sargassum, wood, net, rope, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 81°F (27.2°C) Surface Temp: 82°F (27.8°C) Weather: Seas 3-4', Winds Se 15-20 knots Other: Bottlenose dolphins (30-40) |
| 19 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Knobbed whelk, whelk egg casings, oyster drill, oyster shell, ark clam, fishing equipment, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 81-82°F (27.2-27.8°C) Surface Temp: 82-83°F (27.8-28.3 °C) Weather: Seas 3-5', Winds SSE 10-20 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (40-50) |
| 20 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, whelk egg casings, shell, net, rope wood, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 82°F (27.8°C) Surface Temperature: 83°F (28.3 °C) Weather: Seas 3-4', Winds SE 10-15 knots Other: Bottlenose dolphins (30-40) |
| 21 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, whelk egg casings, whelk, oyster shell, net, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 82°F (27.8°C) Surface Temp: 83°F (28.3 °C) Weather: Seas 2-3', Winds SE 10 knots, Cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (30-40) |
| 22 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, shell, net, fishing line, rope, wood, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 81-83°F (27.2-28.3 °C) Surface Temp: 82-84°F (27.8-28.9 °C) Weather: Seas 2-3', Winds variable 10-20 knots Other: Bottlenose dolphins (25-30) |

Table 1. Calcasieu FY 01 Sea Turtle Observer Reports for NEWPORT

| DATE | DREDGE | NOTES |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| 23 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, whelk, whelk egg casings, scallop, oyster, oyster drill, wood, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 81-82°F (27.2-27.8°C) Surface Temp: 82-83°F (27.8-28.3°C) Weather: Seas 2-4', Winds NE 10 knots, Cloudy w/rain Other: Bottlenose dolphins (30-40) |
| 24 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, shell, whelk egg casings, wood, rock, nets, rope, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 81-82°F (27.2-27.8°C) Surface Temp: 82-83°F (27.8-28.3°C) Weather: Seas 3-4', Winds N 15 knots Other: Bottlenose dolphins (30-40) |
| 25 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Sargassum, whelk, bivalves, net, line, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 81°F (27.2°C) Surface Temp: 82°F (27.8°C) Weather: Seas 3-5', Winds N 10-20 knots, Partly cloudy Other: Bottlenose dolphins (30-40) |
| 26 September 2001 | NEWPORT | Screens: Shell, net, rope, wood, rock, trash Below Mid-Depth Temp: 80-81°F (26.7-27.2°C) Surface Temp: 81-82°F (27.2-27.8°C) Weather: Seas 3-5', Winds N 15 knots Other: Bottlenose dolphins (30-40) |