

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Project: MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF THIMBLE SHOAL

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACTIVITY CHANNEL

Date 05 / 15 / 96 Time(24hr) 2100

Species of Turtle Taken CARETTA CARETTA

Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) THIMBLE SHOAL CHANNEL, NORFOLK VA

Location of Take: Latitude 36° 59.384 Longitude 76° 10.060

Vessel Name and Company PADRE ISLAND, NATCO

Type of Dredging Activity HOPPER DREDGING, 4 CUTS PER LOAD

Load # 33 Times: Start 1700 End 1838 Dump 2048

Sampling Method (overflow, inflow, etc.) INFLOW

Samples Recovered From FWD STBD DISCHG BOX (PLASTRON), FWD PORT (HEAD)

Condition of Screening EXCELLENT

Draghead Deflector? Yes X No

Condition of Deflector EXCELLENT

Weather Conditions OVERCAST, RAIN, WIND SE 12KTS SEAS 1' Tide 2.6' (1842)

Water Temperature: Surface 60° Column NOT AVAIL C or (F) (circle one)

Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled PLASTRON MOSTLY INTACT BUT CRACKED, APPROXIMATELY 75%+ OF CARAPACE MISSING, HEAD AND APPENDAGES INTACT, INTERNAL TISSUES BLACK FROM MUD.

Measurements--

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

Head Width 11.7 CM LENGTH 15.7 CM

Plastron Length 49 CM (EST) SEVERAL Width 53 CM (ESTIMATED), CRACKS, LAST FEW

Carapace S. L. Length N/A FROM CM. MISSING S.L. Width N/A CM'S MISSING)

Carapace O.C. Length N/A POSTERIOR MARGIN O.C. Width N/A

Turtle Tagged? Yes No X Tag# N/A Tag Date N/A / /

Comments PLASTRON WIDTH CLOSELY ESTIMATED DUE TO CRACKS AND INCLUDES THE MARGINAL SCUTES. THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH CARAPACE TO ACCURATELY MEASURE, BUT A S.L. LENGTH ESTIMATE IS > 60CM. A POSTERIOR PORTION OF CARAPACE INCLUDED THE PIGAL SCUTES, MEASURING 19 X 18CM. IT WAS UNATTACHED TO

Observer's Name CHRIS MASON

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

(Attach to reporting forms as necessary)

Dredge PAORE ISLAND

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ANY OTHER PORTION OF REMAINS, AND WAS SAMPLED WITH PLASTRON.

THE DREDGE HAS 2 PUMPS, THE STARBOARD DISCHARGING THROUGH THE STBD FORE & AFT DISCHARGE BOXES, THE PORT THROUGH THE PORT FORE & AFT BOXES, EACH BEING PLUMBED INDEPENDENTLY. SINCE THE PLASTRON (WITH RIGHT FRONT AND BOTH POSTERIOR APPENDAGES ATTACHED) WAS SAMPLED IN THE STBD FORWARD BOX AND THE HEAD (WITH ATTACHED LEFT FRONT APPENDAGE) IN THE PORT FWD BOX, EACH SPECIMEN WAS TAKEN BY A DIFFERENT DRAGHEAD. THESE PROBABLY BELONG TO THE SAME ANIMAL AS BOTH SPECIMENS WERE IDENTIFIED AS CARETTA CARETTA, BOTH ANTERIOR APPENDAGES HAVING 2 CLAWS AND MEASURED 35CM EACH FROM INSERTION TO TIP. HEAD SIZE INDICATES AN ANIMAL >60CM IN CARAPACE LENGTH. THE TURTLE MAY HAVE BEEN CRUSHED ON ONE CUT AND A PORTION PULLED IN, WITH THE OTHER PORTION BEING TAKEN ON A SUBSEQUENT CUT. THE REMAINS WERE ODORLESS.

HEAD IDENTIFIED AS CARETTA CARETTA BY A SINGLE INTERPREFRONTAL SCALE WITH 2 PREFRONTAL SCALES ON EACH SIDE, AND A GENTLE CURVE NEAR THE TIP OF UPPER JAW. THE PLASTRON HAD 3 PORELESS INFRAMARGINAL SCUTES AND BOTH ANTERIOR APPENDAGES WITH 2 CLAWS.

SEE REVERSE FOR DRAWINGS

Observer(s) On Duty: CHRIS MASON

THE SHADED AREAS OF CARAPACE WERE RECOVERED. THE POSTERIOR PORTION WAS AN INDEPENDENT, UNATTACHED FRAGMENT. PLASTRON MOSTLY INTACT BUT CRACKED AND BENT. POSTERIOR CENTIMETER OR SO MISSING FROM PLASTRON.

DRAWING NOT TO SCALE, REFERENCE ONLY!

