ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge: RN Weeks

Project: Thimble Shoals Channel, VA

DAILY REPORT

Date 22 / Aug / 2000 Load Numbers 190 - 193

Area(s) Worked 36°59' N 76° 09' W Section 4

Weather Conditions (incl. sea conditions) mostly clear, Beaufort 1-2 NE 3-10 seas 1-3'

Range of Water Temp., Surface 77 - 78°F Below Mid-Depth 75 - 76°F

Condition and Effectiveness of Screening good

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? (YES) NO

Comments (details of turtle takes or whale sightings, dredged material, screening, biological by-catch, etc.):

Dredged material is silt and clay with some rocks. Debris includes scrap metal + engine parts, rope, wire, steel cable, fishing line, cloth and plastic.

By-catch includes 58 horse shoe crabs, blue crabs, spider crabs, flounder, sole, hog chokers, black drum, mullet, polychaetes, nemerteans, channeled + knobbed whelks, blood arcs, disc clams, scallops, Quahogs, oysters, slipper shells, oyster drills, sea cucumbers.

Caretta caretta (1/2) recovered from port draghead in load #191. Please see attached incident report. An old hypoplastron turtle bone (unid'd) was recovered from the ~~port~~ STBD inflow box in load #192. Due to the age of that sample (no tissue on bone; bone "spongy" in place) this can not be associated with this dredging project.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Animals	Time / Location / Comments
Tursiops truncatus	20-33	all day - feeding in channel + en route to dump

Observer(s) on duty Kristen Dahlen

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge: RN Weeks

Project: Thimble Shoals Channel, VA

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates 20 / Aug / 2000 - 26 / Aug / 2000 Load Numbers 182-207

Range of Water Temp., Surface 77-78°F Below Mid-Depth 75-76°F

Areas Worked (lat/longs, stations) 36°59'N 76°09'W Sections 3,4+5

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **YES** **NO**

Comments (turtle takes, whale sightings, effectiveness of screening, by-catch, material, other info):

Sub-adult Caretta caretta (fore-flippers, head, part of carapace + plastron) recovered from port dragheard in Load #191. Small (7x9in.) section of Caretta caretta carapace recovered in Load #201, and a 24 inch section of digestive tract recovered from same turtle in load #202. Several bones have been recovered in loads 194, 192, 198, 201, 202 + 204. Due to the age of these samples, this cannot be attributed to the current dredging activity. Possible Additional sources of mortality in the area include sports fishers, recreational boaters, gillnetters, shrimpers, deep draft cargo vessels + navy traffic.

Dredged material is silt, clay and sand with some rock. Debris includes scrap metal + engine parts, fiberglass, copper wire, cable, fishing line, cloth, wood debris, tires, chain + plastic.

By-catch includes 422 horse shoe crabs, blue crabs, spider crabs, knobbed + channeled whelks, + egg cases, slipper, oyster drills, oysters, scallops, moon snails, Quahogs, razor clams, blood arcs, polychaetes, nemerteans, rubbery bryozoa, flounder, hog choker, tonguefish, mullet, clear nose skate, butterfly ray and dogfish shark.

Bridge Watch Summary

Date	Various Species and Respective Number	Comments
20 / AUG	TE 6-10	feeding throughout area
21 / AUG	TE 12-22	feeding throughout area
22 / AUG	TE 20-33	feeding throughout area
23 / AUG	TE 22-37	feeding throughout area
24 / AUG	TE 18-34	feeding throughout area
25 / AUG	TE 10-14	feeding throughout area
26 / AUG	TE 16-22	feeding throughout area

Observers on duty Kirsten Dahlen