**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**

**Dredge:** RN Weeks

**Project:** Thimble Shoals Channel, VA

DAILY REPORT

Date 25 / AUG / 2000 Load Numbers 200 203

Area(s) Worked 36°59'N 76°09'W Section 3

Weather Conditions (incl. sea conditions)

Range of Water Temp., Surface Below Mid-Depth

Condition and Effectiveness of Screening

**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, clay + sand with some rocks. Debris includes metal engine parts and scrap metal, fiberglass, rope, fishing line, cloth, plastic, copper wire, steel cable

By-catch includes 38 horse shoe crabs, blue crabs, spider crabs, channeled + knobbed whelks, oysters, scallops, disc clams, Quahogs, razor clams, moon snails, slipper shells, oyster drills, polychaetes, nemerteans, flounder, mullet, drum, hog choker + sea cucumbers. Two old turtle bones were recovered from the port inflow aft box in load #202.

A section of Caretta caretta carapace was recovered from the aft port inflow box in load #201. Please see attached report. A 24 inch section of digestive tract was recovered from the port inflow aft box in load #202.

Bridge Watch Summary

| Species | # of Animals | Time / Location / Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Tursiops truncatus | 10-14 | feeding @ dump and in channel, all day. |
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Observer(s) on duty Kirsten 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