ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge RN WEEKS

Project THIMBLE SHOAL CHANNEL

DAILY REPORT

Date: 7/24/00 Loads: 138-139

Area(s) Worked: SECTION 6 STATIONS 960+00 TO 1025+00

Weather Conditions: RAIN, NE 10-40 KTS, SEAS 4-10'

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 77°F Below Mid-Depth 75°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: GOOD

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

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

* 3 PIECES OF A SEA TURTLE PLASTRON WERE FOUND IN PORT FORE DISCHARGE SCREEN. ONE OF THE PIECES STILL HAD FLESH & WAS WELL "SANDBLASTED". POSITIVE ID OF SPECIES NOT POSSIBLE.

- OTHER BIOTA FOUND: 15 HORSESHOE CRABS, CLEARNOSE SKATE, WHELKS, HERMIT CRABS, SNAILS, BLUE CRABS, FLOUNDER, POLYCHAETE WORMS, CLAMS, OYSTER SHELLS.

- ABIOTA: MACHINE PARTS, CHAIN

- MATERIAL DREDGED IS FINE SAND, SILT & CLAY WITH SOME ROCK.

- INCIDENT REPORT FAXED TO COE NORFOLK & NMFS (NE DIST)

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS	1	4-6	RIDING BOW WAVE OF CARGO SHIP

Observer(s) On Duty: HEATHER PAIGE

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge RN WEEKS

Project THIMBLE SHOAL CHANNEL, VA

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 7/24/00 - 7/30/00 Loads: 138-156

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 76°-77°F Below Mid-Depth 75°-77°

Area(s) Worked: SECTIONS 5 & 6 STATIONS 908+00 TO 1025+00

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

Comments: 3 PIECES OF A SEATURTLE PLASTRON WERE FOUND IN PORT FORE DISCHARGE BOX SCREENING. ONE PIECE HAD FLESH ATTACHED. ALL 3 HAD WHITE OUTER SKIN COATING INTACT ALTHOUGH THEY APPEARED WELL SANDBLASTED. DUE TO SMALL SIZE & NUMBER OF PIECES, SPECIES ID NOT POSSIBLE. BECAUSE JOB IS ONLY 50% COVERAGE FOR OBSERVERS THE PIECES COULD HAVE BEEN IN SCREENING AS EARLY AS 1841 HRS ON 7-23-00 IN LOAD #136. THEY WERE FOUND ON 7-24-00 IN LOAD #138. SAMPLES ARE "ON ICE" ABOARD DREDGE.

OTHER BIOTA FOUND IN SCREENS INCLUDES 109 HORSESHOE CRABS, WHELKS (KNOBBED, LIGHTNING, CHANNELED) SKATE (CLEARNOSE), HERMIT CRABS, SNAILS, BLUE CRABS, SPIDER CRABS, CLAMS (RAZOR, QUAHOG), SOLE, FLUKE, POLYCHAETE WORMS, SKATE & WHELK EGG CASES, RUBBERY BRYOZOAN, BUTTERFLY RAY, SHARK CARTILAGE & INTESTINES, SEA WHIP, OYSTER SHELLS.

STILL PICKING UP MACHINE PARTS EVERY LOAD. & CABLE

MATERIAL DREDGED IS FINE SAND, SILT, CLAY & ROCK.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS	7-26-00 3	30-40	RIDING BOW WAVE OF SUB - ACROBATICS
"	7-24-00 1	4-6	RIDING BOW WAVE OF CARGO SHIP
"	7-29-00 1	12-15	TO DUMP
"	7-30-00 1	3-5	TO DUMP

Observers On Duty: HEATHER PAIGE