

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Project: Cape Henry Channel, VA.

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACTIVITY

Date 10 / 30 / 02 Time(24hr) 1100  
 Species of Turtle Taken Caretta caretta (Loggerhead)  
 Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) Cape Henry Channel, VA. : stations 96-160  
 Location of Take: Latitude 36° 59.76' N Longitude 76° 01.15' W  
 Vessel Name and Company m/v Bayport : Manson Construction  
 Type of Dredging Activity Channel Maintenance  
 Load # 1230 Times: Start 0730 End 0929 Dump 1038  
 Sampling Method (overflow, inflow, etc.) Both inflow and overflow used  
 Samples <sup>Observed at</sup> Recovered From Aft overflow  
 Condition of Screening Good  
 Draghead Deflector? Yes  No   
 Condition of Deflector Good  
 Weather Conditions winds NE 20 kts, BSS 3-4, overcast + rain, 56°F Tide Ebb  
 Water Temperature: Surface 60° Column 58° C or  (circle one)  
 Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled see attached sheet

Measurements-- N/A

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

Head Width \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plastron Length \_\_\_\_\_ Width \_\_\_\_\_  
 Carapace S. L. Length \_\_\_\_\_ S.L. Width \_\_\_\_\_  
 Carapace O.C. Length \_\_\_\_\_ O.C. Width \_\_\_\_\_

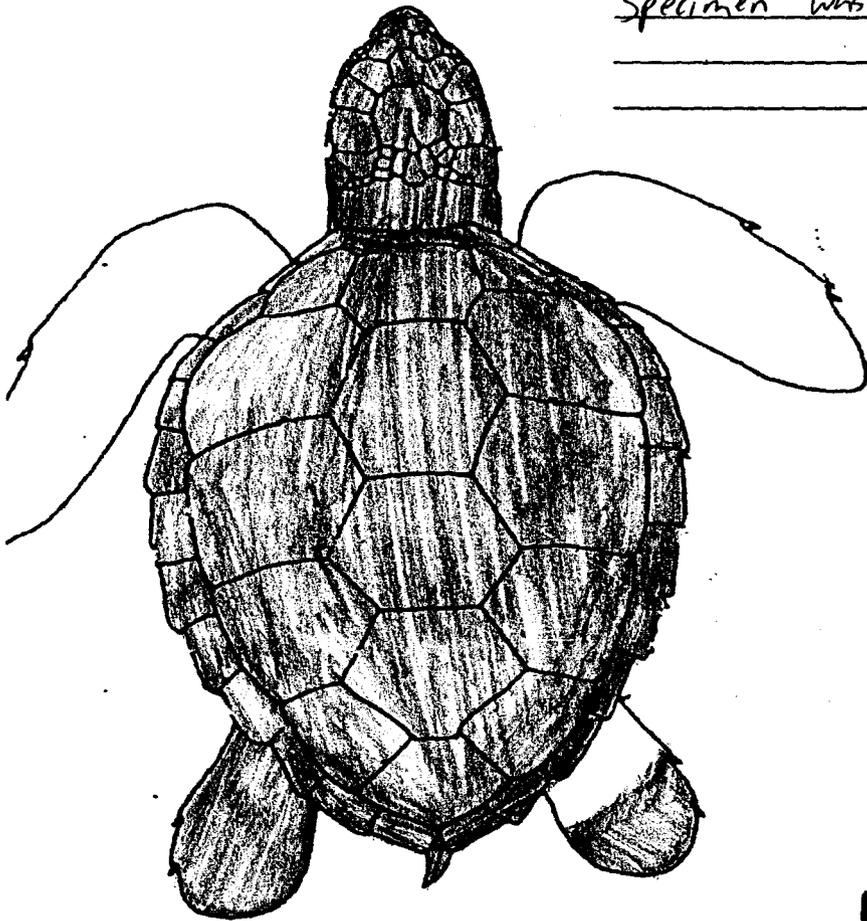
Turtle Tagged? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Tag # \_\_\_\_\_ Tag Date  / /

Comments See attached sheet

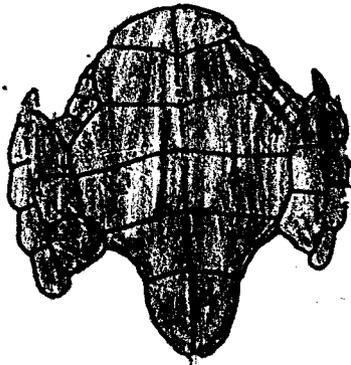
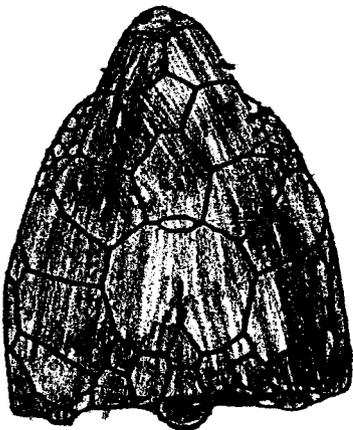
Observer's Name David "Wolf" Lange

Write on the back of the page the areas of turtle which are missing. Sketch cracks and lacerations.

Comments: Specimen was observed after load 1230 was dumped. Specimen was composed of the two fore-limbs, one partial hind-limb, and some soft tissue connecting all three. The condition of the limbs and soft tissue indicated the specimen to be a "fresh kill" (i.e. tissue was non-necrotic). The pigmentation of the limbs and tissue was yellowish-tan, indicating a loggerhead. There were no parts of the head, carapace, plastron or internal organs with the specimen. The specimen was non recoverable.



■ Shaded Areas missing



### Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled

The specimen was composed of the two front flippers, one partial rear flipper, and the skin and connective tissue that attached them together. The condition of the flippers and tissue indicated the specimen to be a "fresh kill", and it appeared to be a loggerhead due to the yellowish-tan pigmentation. There were no parts of the head, carapace, plastron, or internal organs with the specimen.

### Comments

The specimen was not observed until after the load was dumped, because it was below the sampling weir and obscured by the load water. The specimen was observed hung between the columns of the aft overflow pipes (about 1/2 way down). After the load was dumped, the weight of the specimen caused it to become dislodged and fall into the water. An attempt to collect it with a gaff failed, and the specimen disappeared under the water. Apparently during the loading process, the force of the water had pushed the soft tissue through the grating of one of the inflow boxes.