ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/11/91 Loads: 272 - 275

Area Worked: Sections 4/5, Stations 320-420

Conditions: clear, wind ~N 5-15 kts, seas 2'-4', 74° tide: L 1224 H 1827

Incidents:

Upon boarding at 0900, I was informed by the dragtender that there was "intestine all over the screen", but no sign of parts anywhere else. I checked screens, skimmers, draghoods after this load* and retrieved 18' of intestine from the lateral overflow screens along with a small piece of turtle skin (small barnacles present). The color suggest that this turtle was a loggerhead. A cursory check of the gut-contents revealed solidly packed silt in one section of intestine and the remains of a spider crab in the other. Parts were well photographed and frozen for reference.

* Turtle probably taken on load 271

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Observer On Duty:

onboard 0900-1500

Chris Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4/8/91 - 4/13/91

Loads: 256 - 313 (See Daily Report for specific loads covered)

Areas Worked: Sect. 4/5 Sta 280 - 420

Incidents: Note: This Weekly Summary only covers 6 days in order to adjust the schedule of reporting to facilitate better communication with the COE.

4/8 - No coverage. The crewboat was inoperable.

4/9 - Dredge docked 0800 - 2230. I went aboard, cleaned screens. No sign of turtle parts.

4/11/91 Upon boarding at 0900, I was informed by the crew that there was "intestine all in the screen". After load 272 I retrieved approx 18' of intestine from the lateral screens along with a small piece of skin (barnacles present) the color of which suggests this turtle was a loggerhead. A cursory check of the gut-contents revealed solidly packed silt in one section of intestine and the remains of a spider crab in another. Parts were well photo'd and frozen for future reference. This turtle was probably taken on load 271 - immediately prior to my coming onboard.

4/12/91 A fresh piece of intestine was found in the port lateral screen. It measured approx. 16". When brought ashore and compared to the intestine from the previous incident it was found to be identical in structure (muscular, vascular, etc.) and in diameter. It is my conclusion that this part was from a sea turtle - probably a loggerhead.

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Ed Cane

See Reverse

Note: Incidents involving only light turtle parts - skin, viscera, etc. - indicate the basic problem encountered when trying to sample turtle take by hopper dredges: most turtle parts are negatively buoyant and only the turbulence of the water inside the hopper keeps any of them suspended for sampling. We may never know exactly what sinks with the heavy sediment and goes unsampled.

Chr Slay