ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *MANHATTAN ISLAND* / NATCO

Maintenance Dredging - 1995 - Georgetown, SC

DAILY REPORT

Date: 11 / 28 / 95 Loads: 22-27

Area(s) Worked: Lanes 2, 4 STA 24-70 (Between Buoys 4-6)

Weather Conditions: Clear → P. Cloudy → clear skies, winds Southerly 5-15 kts, Seas 2-3', Air 54-70°F

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 57°F Below Mid-Depth —

Condition of all screening apparatus: Discharge boxes and skimmers excellent. Starboard lateral screen has weak spots and will need replacing.

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

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

Material being dredged is a very light silty mud. Most of what we dump is liquid with the silt suspended in sea water. Because of this we have continued doing 4 cuts and then dumping rather than measuring a filled hopper.

The most common sample that comes up is large pieces of wood. These clog the draghead and all other points of screening requiring cleaning after every load. There have been very few other biological specimens but occasionally we have had (in order of occurrence): Horseshoe crabs, whelk egg cases, sea pork, tunicates, a flounder and a loggerhead sea turtle *.

* Load 25 *

* As the draghead was lifted from the water, a turtle could clearly be seen caught in its teeth. After freeing the turtle from the draghead, the observers took measurements and pictures, and assessed the turtles minor injuries. After observing the turtle for 2 hours we determined that its life was not threatened in any way and the injuries were mainly superficial. Before dumping load 26 we released the turtle 1 mile offshore of the dump. It quickly swam away. See incident report for complete details. (ATTACHED)

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tursiops Truncatus	constant	≈30-40	Every time we are in the dredging area (Buoys 4-6) there are bottlenose dolphins all around.

Observer(s) On Duty: Gedamke, Betts

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *MANHATTAN ISLAND* / NATCO

Maintenance Dredging - 1995 - Georgetown, SC

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 11 / 25 / 95 - 11 / 30 / 95 Loads: 01 - 35

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 54° - 57° F Below Mid-Depth NOT AVAILABLE

Area(s) Worked: STATIONS 24 to 70, ALL LANES

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

Comments: BOTTS AND GEDAMKE BOARDED THE DREDGE MANHATTAN AT GEORGETOWN, S.C. AT 0615 ON 11/25/95. ALL SAMPLING GEAR WAS IN EXCELLENT SHAPE AS THE VESSEL HAD HAD IT INSTALLED DURING DRY DOCK TIME, FROM WHICH IT JUST EMERGED. THE MANHATTAN HAS ALSO BEEN EQUIPPED WITH THE NEW TURTLE DEFLECTOR STYLE DRAGHEADS. DREDGING BEGAN AT 0904 ON 11/25 WITH THE PORT DRAGARM ONLY, AS THE STARBOARD ARM IS CURRENTLY NON FUNCTIONAL. THE INITIAL DREDGED MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREDOMINANTLY A HIGHLY ORGANIC BLACK MUD WITH TREMENDOUS QUANTITIES OF WOOD PIECES RANGING IN SIZE FROM A FEW M.M.'S TO 2 OR 3 METERS. THIS HAS CAUSED THE SAMPLING SCREENS AND THE DRAGHEADS AS WELL AS THE SUCTION PUMPS TO CLOG UP, NECESSITATING DOWN TIME TO REPAIR DREDGING EQUIPMENT AND THE OVERFLOW SCREENING. DURING DOWN TIME FOR ENGINE MAINTENANCE ON 11/29 THE OBSERVERS WERE ABLE TO REPLACE OUTFLOW SCREENING THAT HAD BEEN DAMAGED BY THE WOOD CHUNKS IN THE HOPPER.

☆ ON 11/28/95 AT APPROXIMATELY 1445 DURING LOAD # 25 A JUVENILE LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE WAS TAKEN. THE ANIMAL WAS WEDGED IN THE PORT DRAGHEAD. IT WAS REMOVED ALIVE AND ALERT AND KEPT ONBOARD FOR 2 HOURS FOR OBSERVATION AND A THOROUGH EXAMINATION FOR INJURIES. AFTER DETERMING IT WAS UNHARMED, ASIDE FROM MINOR ABRASIONS, IT WAS RELEASED AND SWAM AWAY ENTHUSIASTICALLY. FOR A MORE DETAILED REPORT, SEE THE ATTACHED SUMMARY.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tursiops truncatus	5	20-30	FEED, TRAVEL THROUGH THE CHANNEL IRREGULARLY. NUMEROUS RESIGHTINGS OBVIOUSLY OCCUR WHEN THEY'RE IN THE AREA.

Observers On Duty: JASON GEDAMKE, WILLIAM BOTTS