

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge STUYVESANT - Tampa Bay, Florida
USACE, Jacksonville District - Winter 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 03 / 31 / 96 Loads: 109-114

Area(s) Worked:(Lat/Long, Sectional & Channel Markers) Egmont Channel Buoys 11-13

Weather Conditions: Thunder storms, Winds calm to S 30 knots
H2O Temp Surf. 67-68F
Seas 2'-4' H2O Temp Mid. 67-68F

Condition of Turtle Deflectors: Good

Condition of all screening: Good

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No

Comments: At midnight the observer sighted a turtle swimming in the hopper. This was just at the end of the load when the hopper level reaches the overflow screen. The load was then stopped so the observers could get the turtle out. By the time the observers reached the hopper the turtle had been pulled into the skimmer. The observers retrieved the turtle from the skimmer. The turtle was barely alive and quite lethargic in any movements. The turtles main injury was a 9cm fracture that went through the pectoral, abdominal and femoral scutes. This fracture went through the hyoplastron and hypoplastron plates. The turtle also had numerous marginal scutes that were fractured. The turtle also was covered with numerous abrasions all over. Some blood was dripping from the fractures and the plastron had numerous pink blotches all over. The turtle was kept moist and placed in a box and not moved. Observers kept a watch on the turtle through the night. First thing in the

Bridge Watch Summary

Continued

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
No sightings			

Eric Westerman, William Botts

Observer(s) On Duty:

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 3/31/96 - 4/6/96 Loads: 109-123

Area(s) Worked (Lat/Long, Sectional & Channel Markers): Egmont channel between
Green buoys #11 & 13

Range of H2O Temperature 66°F → 68°F Obtained from: Lowering a thermometer
on a line, into the water beside
the dredge

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No

Comments and General Observations: Two Kemp's ridleys, *L. kempi*, were taken
during dredging operations. The first in load # 109, about mid night,
(just after mid night, on daily report for Sun 3/31); the second about
0300 hrs Tues 4/2, load # 122. Both were removed from
mid level overflow screen in the aft. hoppers. The first was recovered
alive, but died shortly afterwards, & was delivered to authorities on
shore. The second was found dead: just the front half roughly,
photographed, & disposed of, weighted, at the anchorage just behind
Egmont Key, by safety engineer Bill Young. See incident reports
for further details.

E. Westerman & W. Batts, turtle observers, replaced by K. Kweyer &
J. Knecht ~ 1100 hrs Mon 4/1

Dredging operations terminated Tues 4/2 ~ 0730 hrs, by direction of
the Corps, I assume, as the two turtle quota for this job had been met.
Stuyvesant went to anchor just south of the Egmont channel, behind
Egmont Key @ 27°35' 95 N & 82°44' 34 W, & remained there through
Sat 4/6 & into the following week.

Wed 4/3 @ 1130 hrs representatives of the dredge company, the Army Corps of
engineers, & the Natl Marine fisheries come aboard to inspect

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
unidentified sea turtles	2	2	Reported by deck crew during meeting 4/3 from descriptions, probably <i>C. cetera</i> or <i>C. mydas</i>
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	daily	3-4	from our anchorage we have regularly sighted a small unit of dolphins following the channel w/ the tide, basically, several times daily.

Observer(s) On Duty: Kathryn Kweyer John Knecht