

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

L Jge STUYVESANT - Tampa Bay, Flor. -
USACE, Jacksonville District - Winter 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 04/02/1996 Loads: 121-123

Area(s) Worked:(Lat/Long, Sectional & Channel Markers) Egmont Channel buoys 11,12 -> 13,14

Weather Conditions: partly cloudy, NW winds 20-25 Kts, Seas 4-6' H2O Temp Surf. 66°F
H2O Temp Mid. ---

Condition of Turtle Deflectors: excellent

Condition of all screening: All inflow and overflow screening in good working condition.

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

Comments: At the end of load 122, the anterior portion of an adult Kemp's Ridley (Lepidochelys Kempii) was found at the midsection of the mid high level skimmer. The right side of the plastron had four inframarginal scutes with pores, the tip of the upper tibia distinctly hooked, there were four prefrontal scales between the orbits, there was one claw on each foreflipper, and the carapace appeared to be rounded with greenish gray color. It was thought that the turtle was freshly dead, due to the presence of bright red blood in the visceral cavity. The carapace was badly fractured and most of the internal organs missing along with the posterior portion of the animal. The turtle was measured, photographed, and disposed of.

USACE personnel Diana Bisher (for Mark Wolf) and Chuck Wilburn were contacted along with Chris Slay, Stuyvesant Dredge Company & Florida Marine Patrol. Alan Foley with U.S. Fish & Wildlife could not be contacted.

Dredge shutdown and went to anchor at 0830.

Paul Datson, Captain Hobcroft, and the crew immediately went to work changing the TED angle by adding a chain to replace the shackles and welded bars across the visor openings in an effort to deter a possible additional incident.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
	<u>0</u>		

Observer(s) On Duty: Kathryn Krueger, John Knecht

Additional Comments

Dredge Stuyvesant - Tampa Bay, Florida
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Material dredged was primarily silt. There were few biological specimens which included various sponges, whelk egg cases, whelk shells, and a decomposed fish carcass.

The captain and crew were extremely helpful throughout the entire incident. Their efforts were greatly appreciated.

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *STUYVESANT* - Tampa Bay, Florida

USACE, Jacksonville District - Winter 1996

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 X No

Comments and General Observations: Two Kempys ridleys, L. Kempfi, were taken during dredging operations. The first in load # 109, about midnight, (just after midnight, 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 discharge just behind Egmont Key, by safety engineer Bill Young. See incident reports for further details.

E. Westerman & W. Botts, 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 came aboard to inspect

Bridge Watch Summary

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

Observer(s) On Duty: Kathryn Kweyer John Knecht

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Dredge STUYVESANT

TAMPA BAY, FL.

Week of 3/31 - 4/6/96

the dragheads, deflectors, inflow screening & access.

Lunch & meetings followed until ~ 1630 hrs. All present seemed, to me, to be most cooperative & eager for this dredge to resume working & finish the job. Corps reps made recommendations to modify the deflectors, so the dragheads ride flush w/ the bottom. They also bid out the basic design for a system of ladders & ladders & ladders, & lights, to provide observers access to inflow screening.

NMFs reps recommended trawling to remove turtles from the channel during dredging operations. We won't know until next week, Mon/Tues 4/8-9 if the turtle quota will be raised for this job.

This is a brief summary of this meeting. For more information refer to the observers log kept during this job.

The remainder of the week we have been at anchor as previously noted. The crew has worked on some various projects, & all have been most patient.