ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge *STUYVESANT* - Tampa Bay, Florida
USACE, Jacksonville District - Winter 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 04 / 26 / 96 Loads: 189 ONLY

Area(s) Worked: (Lat/Long, Sectional & Channel Markers) Mullet Key Channel (1A to 25 Buoys)

Weather Conditions: Skies clear, winds S.-S.W. 5-10 knots, seas 1' H2O Temp Surf. 72°

H2O Temp Mid. N/AV

Condition of Turtle Deflectors: Excellent

Condition of all screening: Overflow skimmer screens are in excellent condition. The inflow screens, as mentioned on yesterdays daily report (4/25), were badly damaged when the screen covers collapsed.

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

Comments: Only one load, number 189, was dug today since the ship had scheduled dock time at Port Manatee for refueling and repairs. However at the completion of the load, examination of the draghead and the inflow screening turned up skeletal and visceral remains from a Caretta caretta. The proper authorities have been notified and the remains temporarily preserved (refrigerated). For further details of the incident see copies of load # 189 and the accompanying incident report.

The Stuyvesant was docked for the aforementioned activities (fuel, etc.) from approximately 0900 until 2000 hours. Shortly after leaving the dock engine troubles resulted in further delays. Dredging resumed at roughly 2350 hours on 4/26.

The vessel is operating for one more day without top screens on the inflow but the bottom screen, which proved effective in todays sampling and documented "take", is in place.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observer(s) On Duty: WILLIAM BOTTS, CHERYL RYDER

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4/21/96 - 4/27/96 Loads: 166-192

Area(s) Worked (Lat/Long, Sectional & Channel Markers): Egmont Channel buoys 11-14 and 16
Mullet Key Channel buoys 23-25 and 25-1A

Range of H2O Temperature 71°-74°F Obtained from: Observers on board at cut area

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes ✓ No____

Comments and General Observations:

The inflow covers sustained severe damage under the weight of load #187 and were removed on 4/25/96. With USACE approval, dredging continued. Covers will be reinstated 4/28/96 when the Stuyvesant goes to dock. The bottom screen has sampled effectively and the skimmers are in excellent condition as are the TEDs.

During load #189 there was an incident involving a loggerhead (Caretta caretta) sea turtle. Skeletal and visceral evidence were found in the port draghead and starboard screening. The turtle was alive at the time of take and the remains have been temporarily preserved. The incident occured at ~0100 on 4/26/96 in Mullet Key Channel buoys 25 to 1A under calm conditions. See load sheet #189 and accompanying incident report for additional information.

Other biological take has been minimal: samples include rays, worms, sponges, horseshoe crabs, sea cucumbers, keyhole urchins, crabs and whelks.

Early in the week the Stuyvesant was dredging primarily in Egmont Channel, subsequently focusing on Mullet Key Channel and working both locations at the end of the week. Consistent with earlier observations there is more hard rock, coquina and coral in Mullet Key while Egmont material tends to be finer.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Tursiops truncatus	8	~49	Bottlenose dolphins observed mostly in the channel
Unidentified sea turtle	2	2	Seen in channel; probably Caretta caretta
Unidentified dolphins	2	~10	Observed on the way to dump site

Observer(s) On Duty: Cheryl Ryder, William Betts, J. Knecht