ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Project: Tampa Bay, Florida

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACTIVITY

Date 04 / 26 / 96 Time(24hr) 0100 (estimation)

Species of Turtle Taken Caretta caretta (Loggerhead)

Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) Mullet Key Channel between buoys 25 and 2A, Tampa Bay, FL

Location of Take: Latitude 82°41' W Longitude 27°37' N

Vessel Name and Company Stuyvesant - Stuyvesant Dredging Company

Type of Dredging Activity Hopper maintenance dredging

Load # 189 Times: Start 2225 End 0110 Dump 0325

Sampling Method (overflow, inflow,etc.) Inflow Screening

Samples Recovered From Port Draghead and aft starboard discharge screening

Condition of Screening Wire inflow covers collapsed during load #187 and were removed. →

Draghead Deflector? Yes X No

Condition of Deflector Excellent

Weather Conditions Clear skies, seas 1', winds S-SW 5-10kt Tide Ebb

Water Temperature: Surface 72°F Column Not Available C or F (circle one)

Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled The samples included 2 carapace fragments and 4 pieces of viscera consistent with intestinal matter. The port draghead carapace fragment measured 13x9cm. The carapace fragment from the starboard discharge screen →

Measurements-- Not Available; 2 carapace fragments and viscera samples only

Give estimate of entire carapace dimensions, as well as fragments sampled (in metric when possible, indicate if not):

Head Width NA

Plastron Length NA Width NA

Carapace S. L. Length NA S.L. Width NA

Carapace O.C. Length NA O.C. Width NA

Turtle Tagged? Yes No ✓ Tag # Tag Date / /

Comments The 2 carapace fragments were similar suggesting that one animal was taken. The appearance, smell and condition of parts retrieved are indicative of an animal that was alive at the time of take. Positive species identification was based on the characteristic reddish-brown color of the carapace fragments.

Observer's Name Cheryl Ryder, William Botts

Samples were retained despite the absence of the covers although additional evidence may have been lost.

measured 15cm x 14cm and was cracked with accompanying tissue matter attached which appeared and smell fresh. The 4 pieces of visceral matter obtained in the same screening was consistent with loggerhead intestinal tissue.