

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge STUYVESANT - Tampa Bay, FL

USACE, Jacksonville District

DAILY REPORT

Date: 04 / 12 / 97 Loads: 179-183

Area(s) Worked: Stations 337+00 to 468+00

Weather Conditions: Skies variable, winds ESE to N 10-25 knots, seas 2-4'

Range of H2O Temperature: Surface 73-76°F Below Mid-Depth NA

Condition of all screening apparatus: Overflow screening in good working condition. TED welds ok.

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

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

Material dredged continues to be a mix of sand, shell, rock, mud and clay. samples from the overflow screening included a skate, sea pork and a sea hare. During a routine inspection of the hopper catwalk and the obsolete inflow screening a fresh, dead Kemp's ridley (Lepidochelys kempfi) was sampled in the mid inflow screening. The partial specimen was examined by both observers photographed and weighted and disposed of at the dump site at the completion of load #182. All contacts were advized at the time of the incident. No bow thrusters were utilized during this working day.

During load #182 an adult loggerhead (Caretta caretta) was observed 300' off the starboard bow. The turtle was seen at the surface, in the channel near buoy #9. Apparently startled by the appoaching crewboat it dove and was not seen again. The starboard arm was not operational at the time.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Caretta caretta	1	1	Adult loggerhead observed at 1210 in channel near buoy #9

Eric Westerman, Cheryl Ryder

Observer(s) On Duty:

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge STUYVESANT - Tampa Bay, FL

USACE, Jacksonville District

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 04 / 07 / 97 - 04 / 13 / 97 Loads: 160-187

Range of H2O Temperature: Surface 73 -76°F Below Mid-Depth NA

Area(s) Worked: Stations 337+00-468+00

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

Comments: There were two takes and one incident detected this week. Load 170 a adult female loggerhead was sampled in the starboard draghead. About 65% of the carapace and all major organs and intestine were missing. Load 171 a badly decomposed fore flipper of a loggerhead was detected in the mid inflow basket. Load 181 a kemp's ridley was sampled in the mid inflow basket. About 55% of the carapace and all major organs and the left side flippers and plastron were missing. From the three turtles sampled only 49cm of intestine was sampled in the overflow screen. The overflow screen is in good condition. The screen is also welded down about six inches in the skimmer. The screen has been sampling sea pork, skates and rays, flounder, blue crabs, whelk egg cases and trash. Of the two turtles sampled in the inflow basket the Kemp's ridley was found laying against the mid center screen in the lander and the loggerhead flipper was found wedged in lateral screen towards the right open side of the screen.

Two loggerhead sea turtles were sighted in the cut this week. Material digging is sand, silt, mud, clay, shell and rock. The tug Kinsman Challenger continues to plowing operations with the project in the digging area.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Cc	2	2	Loggerhead sea turtles
Tt	4	30	Bottlenose Dolphins

Eric Westerman, Cheryl Ryder

Observers On Duty: