

**Marine Endangered Species Monitoring Program
Hopper Dredging Project Summary
Longboat Key, Florida
Beach Replenishment**



12-25 April 2006

Submitted by:
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ABSTRACT

*A twenty-four-hour-per-day endangered species monitoring program was conducted onboard the hopper dredge Atchafalaya from 12-25 April 2006. Endangered and threatened species targeted include the Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*), Green (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, and Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) sea turtles. Observer monitoring was provided by East Coast Observers, inc. (ECO, inc.) and was at 100% coverage using two observers approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). This project was awarded by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and contracted through B + B Dredging Company.*

INTRODUCTION

The endangered species observers conducted twenty four hour monitoring aboard the hopper dredge Atchafalaya for fourteen days of the beach replenishment project off the coast of Longboat Key, Florida. Pursuant to agreements with NMFS, two certified observers were required to work onboard the dredge in 12 hour shifts allowing coverage 24 hours per day. Sea Turtle Relocation Trawling was provided by Coastwise Consulting.

SCOPE OF WORK

East Coast Observers, Inc. was subcontracted by B + B Dredging to conduct onboard endangered species monitoring. ECO, inc. was to provide necessary trained personnel and relevant equipment to inspect, clean and monitor inflow screening located onboard the Dredge Atchafalaya. Observers were also required to monitor the draghead and draghead deflector each time they were brought onboard for cleaning and maintenance, and complete load data sheets for each subsequent load. Any death or injury to endangered species was to be identified, measured, photographed and logged. Proper disposal of said species was to be performed by the observer and dredge personnel. Load sheets were to be completed for each individual load, and included pertinent information to each load. Load time start, load time stop, condition of screening and draghead deflector, type of dredged material, weather and sea conditions, screen contents and species bycatch. Any take information was to be noted on the load data sheet, and then detailed in a separate incident report. Daily and weekly summary forms were to be completed and given to dredge and USACE personnel. Day bridge watches were assigned to the observer when not occupied with screen and draghead inspection duties.

RESULTS

The Dredge Atchafalya began dredging at 1315 hrs on 12 April 06 and completed its last load on 25 April 2006 at 1549 hrs. There were no incidents involving endangered species onboard the dredge. Sea Turtle Relocation Trawling provided by Coastwise Consulting successfully relocated several threatened/endangered sea turtles during this fourteen day period.

Project Date: 12-25 April 2006

Project Length: 14 days

Coverage Level: 100% onboard dredge

Total Number of Takes: 0

Number of Loads: 180

Water Temperature: Surface 73F

BY-CATCH LISTING

Clear Nosed Skate

Blue Crab

Sand Dollar

Channled Whelk

Sea Stars

Urchins

Bivalves

Gastropods

Tube worms

Southern stingray

Conch

Raja eglanteria

Callinectes sapidus

Echinarachius parma

Busycon canaliculatum

