ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/1/91 Loads: 125 - 129

Area Worked: Outer Channel - Stations 420 - 320

Conditions: Clear, wind N 5-10 kts, seas 1-4', high 72°, tide H 0908 L 1521

Incidents:

Load 129 - At 1420 while checking the screens between cuts I found a small turtle on its back against the port lateral screening (rear 1/4 of hopper). After retrieving the turtle, I identified it as a Kemp's Ridley - 12.5" across the curve carapace length, width 13.0". There was a fracture/puncture in the carapace above and slightly behind the right front flipper. The wound was appry. 1.5" x 2" with the broken fragment pushed in ~0.5". The turtle was placed on its back, rear elevated for 20 minutes with the head hanging free off a ledge. Water was observed running from the nostrils and eventually there was flipper movement. At 1440 I put the turtle in a cardboard box and boarded the crewboat - turtle was kept moist and shaded. From the NATCO office I called the COE, Savannah Dist. and was told they were calling Terry Henwood (NMFS). I also called U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Brunswick) but their endangered species person is on vacation. I then called Marineland (FLA) and their veterenarian, Joanne Whaley, instructed me to keep the turtle in fresh water (below the nostrils) and said she would get the turtle tomorrow (4/2). Turtle was bleeding slowly but breathing regularly when we left it at 1730.

Comments:

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:
Onboard 0800-1500

Chris Slay

GA. DNR was also called but their endangered species people wer gone for the day.

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/2/91 Loads: 139 - 143

Area Worked: Outer Channel - stations 420 - 320

Conditions: Clear, wind ~N 5-10 kts, seas 2', high 76°, tide H 0948 L 1534

Incidents: Load #141 Fresh piece of intestine taken from port lateral screen (rear). It measured ~11.0" long with a diameter of approx. 1.0". Primary vein very well defined. I couldn't positively identify it as a turtle or a large fish intestine and there were no appreciable contents. I cleaned it up with fresh water then froze it in the ships freezer... will be taken in and analyzed.

Comments:

Screens holding pretty well - spent most of the day cleaning and patching it.

Marineland picked up the turtle which was described as being active when they took it.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:
Onboard 0830 - 1700

Chris Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/3/91 Loads: 153-156

Area Worked: Outer channel, stations 420-320

Conditions: Overcast, wind NE 15+ kts, seas 4-6', high 73°
tide: H 1030
L 1638

Incidents:

Comments: Smooth day.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:
onboard 0830 - 1530

Chris Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/4/91 Loads: 169-174

Area Worked: Outer Channel, sections 350-320

Conditions: overcast, NE wind 5-15 kts, seas 3'-6', high 73°, H 1114 tide: L 1710

Incidents:

Comments: No incidents. Informed that the Dodge Island will be arriving ~ 4/12. I'll provide observer coverage for that dredge.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:
onboard 0800-1430

Chris Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/5/91 Loads: 190

Area Worked: Outer Channel, stations 350-320

Conditions: Overcast, wind ~E 5-10 kts, Seas 2-4', high 73°

Incidents: tide: H 1207
L 1755

No incidents.

Comments:

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:
Onboard ~0900 - 1630

Chris Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/6/91 Loads: 212 - 218

Area Worked: Outer Channel sections 350-320

Conditions: Overcast, wind NE 5-10 kts, seas 2'-4', high 78°. Tide: H 1256 L 1845

Incidents: Onboard 0950 hrs, immediately informed by crew that turtle parts were waiting for me on the aft deck. The dragtender saw tissue stuck in the draghead and subsequently retrieved the rear flipper of a loggerhead from the port skimmer @ 0600, probably from load 208. The flippers were connected by the skin around the anus and the rear tip of the plastron. 4" of large intestine was still attached, contents digested and not identifiable. Photos were taken from several angles, flippers were measured (9.5" from top of ball joint to tip; 4.5" greatest width) and then the specimen was disposed of at the dump with the approval of the COE Inspector and the Capt., @ 1015. At 1020, Load 212, 6 pieces of intestine were recovered from the lateral screens - total length ~60". They were cleaned with fresh water and frozen. Content analysis to be done ashore. It is presumed these intestines are from the loggerhead taken earlier. At 1120, Load 213, the fore flippers of a loggerhead were retrieved from the rear of the stbd. lateral screening. The flippers were connected by skin, muscle tissue and about ½ the plastron. The flippers were 17" long from top of ball joint to tip; 14" from rear insertion to tip. The plastron was 11" from the mid-line to the outside margin. Further detail can be had from the numerous photos taken and these photos should positively confirm that this was or was not the forward section of the turtle taken earlier. The outer epidermal layer on the flippers was sloughing off - sample was definitely killed before this load. I think it's likely to be the same turtle taken on load 208.

Comments:

Observer on Duty:

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

onboard 0950 -

See Next Page

Chris Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT Continued for 4/6

Date: 4/6/91 Loads: 212 - 218

Area Worked:

Conditions: see previous page

Incidents:

Comments: Load 217, At 1550, I retrieved the head of a loggerhead from the coaming, against the rear section of the port lateral screen then found the right fore flipper on the crane base platform directly behind and above the draghead. Head and flipper appear to have been drug along under the draghead for part of the load - skin was scraped away and the skull had two longitudenal fractures on each side of the top of the skull. The skull measured nearly 7.0" across at the widest point. The flipper was ~14.5" from the rear insertion to the tip. The parts were thoroughly photographed and later disposed of at the dump.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

Chris Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/7/91 Loads: 228-234

Area Worked: Outer Channel Sect # 4 Sta. 350-320, Sect. # 5 Sta. 460-530

Conditions: thick fog, wind ~N 5 kts, seas < 2', high 72°, tide: L 0845 H 2048

Incidents:

Comments: Recovered a large bone (6" x 3") from skimmer on load 231. Somewhat sternum-like and very cartilageneous - most probably a large fish or shark.

Not Turtle
CKS

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:
onboard 0750 - 1730

Chris Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4/1/91 - 4/7/91 **Loads:** 125 - 234

Areas Worked: Outer Channel, Sect. 4-5, Sta. 320-420, 460-530

Incidents: 4/1, Load 129 At 1420, while checking the screens between cuts, I found a Kemp's Ridley (Lepidochelys kempi) against the port lateral screening at the rear of the hopper. It measured 12.5" across-the-curve length; 13.0" width. There was a fracture/ puncture in the carapace above and slightly behind the right front flipper. The wound was apprx. 1.5"x2.0" with the broken fragment pushed in 0.5". The turtle, then unconscious, was placed on its back, rear elevated, head hanging free for 20 minutes. Water was observed running from the nostrils and eventually there was flipper movement. The turtle was brought ashore on the crewboat, kept moist and shaded and Marineland was contacted. Their veterenarian, Joanne Whaley, picked up the turtle, still alive, on 4/2. The COE, NMFS, USF&W and Ga. DNR were all contacted.

not turtle
cks

4/2 Load 141, Fresh piece of intestine was taken from port lateral screen, apprx. 11.0" x 1.0". No appreciable contents. Taken ashore for further analysis.

4/6 Load 208, When I boarded the dredge at 0950 the crew informed me that they had taken a turtle (0600) and saved the parts. They were the rear flippers of a logggerhead (Caretta caretta) and had been recovered from the port skimmer.

Load 212, Six pieces of sea turtle intestine were recovered from the lateral screeens and measured a total of apprx. 60". They were cleaned and brought ashore for content analysis. It is presumed these intestines were from the loggerhead taken earlier- load 212 being the first that the lateral screens were checked by the observer upon boarding.

Pob.
1 turtle

Load 213, The fore flippers of a loggerhead (Caretta caretta) were retrieved from the stbd. lateral screen. The flippers were connected by skin, muscle, and a large piece of plastron. It is likely this is part of the same turtle taken earlier (see detail on Daily Report).

Load 217, I retrieved the head of a loggerhead (Caretta caretta)

cont..

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173
Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer(s) On Duty:

Chris Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4/1 - 4/7 Continued. Loads:

Areas Worked:

Incidents: Cont.....

from the coaming, against the port lateral screen then found the right fore flipper on the crane base platform. The head and flipper appear to have been drug along under the draghead for part of the load- skin was scraped away and the skull had two severe fractures.

Extensive photographic records were made of each incident and photos will be made available to the Contractor and the COE. Other details can be had from the Daily Reports.

Note: Two loggerheads were taken prior to 4/1/91. I identified the photos taken by the COE Inspector to confirm this. NATCO has details on these incidents.

Summary: From the turtle parts recovered it appears that 4-5* loggerheads (Caretta caretta) have been sampled as well as 1 Kemp's Ridley (Lepidochelys kempi), since dredging operations began.

*minimum count

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173
Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer(s) On Duty:

Ch Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/8/91 Loads:

Area Worked:

Conditions:

0700 NATCO office:

Incidents: No coverage today. The crewboat ran aground yesterday and was inoperable today. Screens will be checked when the dredge comes to the dock in the morning for fuel. The crew knows to keep an eye on the screening.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/9/10 Loads:

Area Worked:

Conditions:

Incidents: Dredge docked in Brunswick 0900. I boarded at 1000 and cleaned and patch the screening. There was plenty of the usual sea life - spanish mackerel, shrimp, eels, tunicates, etc - no sign of turtles.

At 1300 I escorted Gina Gore around the Sugar Island to familiarize here with the dredge. She is currently employed by the GA. DNR and has extensive experience with nesting sea turtles. She will eventually be used as an observer with the approval of NMFS.

The dredge sailed at 2230.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/10/91 Loads: 256 - 261

Area Worked: Section 4 + 5, Stations 320-420

Conditions: Overcast, wind ~SW 10-15 kts, seas 2'-4', 75° tide: L 1136 H 1735

Incidents:

No incidents -

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/11/91 Loads: 272 - 275

Area Worked: Sections 4/5, Stations 320-420

Conditions: clear, wind ~N 5-15 kts, seas 2'-4', 74° tide: L 1224 H 1827

Incidents:

Upon boarding at 0900, I was informed by the dragtender that there was "intestine all over the screen", but no sign of parts anywhere else. I checked screens, skimmers, draghoods after this load* and retrieved 18' of intestine from the lateral overflow screens along with a small piece of turtle skin (small barnacles present). The color suggest that this turtle was a loggerhead. A cursory check of the gut-contents revealed solidly packed silt in one section of intestine and the remains of a spider crab in the other. Parts were well photographed and frozen for reference.

* Turtle probably taken on load 271

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

onboard 0900-1500

Chris Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4-12-91 Loads: 288-295

Area Worked: sta 32-42 sect 4/5

Conditions: Mid 70's seas increased at the end of the day to 4'. Mostly cloudy skies w/ chance of rain. Barometer 1028 mb

Incidents:
Load 292
A 16" piece of intestine was found after load 292 in the port lateral screen. A one inch incision was made in the intestine to establish its contents none was found, also there was no visible blood from the incision. It will be frozen and held for further analysis.

Everything else seems well and fine.

Tide
L 1310 .00'
H 1912 7.2'

onboard 0850 - 1900

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

EdCane

Ed Cane

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4-13-91 Loads: 307-313

Area Worked: Sta. 28-32

Conditions: Mostly cloudy ESE 10 Kts 2-4' seas 74°F
Tide Hi 0741 6.7' Lo 1353 -.03 Hi 1957 - 7.7'

Incidents: No known incidents with target species. Observer boards ship at 0930 exits at 1700 hrs. Short loading time yields minimal sampling due too minimal overflow.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

Ed Cane

onboard 0930 - 1700

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4/8/91 - 4/13/91

Loads: 256 - 313 (See Daily Report for specific loads covered)

Areas Worked: Sect. 4/5 Sta 280 - 420

Incidents: Note: This Weekly Summary only covers 6 days in order to adjust the schedule of reporting to facilitate better communication with the COE.

4/8 - No coverage. The crewboat was inoperable.

4/9 - Dredge docked 0800 - 2230. I went aboard, cleaned screens. No sign of turtle parts.

4/11/91 Upon boarding at 0900, I was informed by the crew that there was "intestine all in the screen". After load 272 I retrieved approx 18' of intestine from the lateral screens along with a small piece of skin (barnacles present) the color of which suggests this turtle was a loggerhead. A cursory check of the gut-contents revealed solidly packed silt in one section of intestine and the remains of a spider crab in another. Parts were well photo'd and frozen for future reference. This turtle was probably taken on load 271 - immediately prior to my coming onboard.

4/12/91 A fresh piece of intestine was found in the port lateral screen. It measured approx. 16". When brought ashore and compared to the intestine from the previous incident it was found to be identical in structure (muscular, vascular, etc.) and in diameter. It is my conclusion that this part was from a sea turtle - probably a loggerhead.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173
Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer(s) On Duty:

Chris Slay

Ed Cane

See Reverse

Note: Incidents involving only light turtle parts - skin, viscera, etc. - indicate the basic problem encountered when trying to sample turtle take by hopper dredges: most turtle parts are negatively buoyant and only the turbulence of the water inside the hopper keeps any of them suspended for sampling. We may never know exactly what sinks with the heavy sediment and goes unsampled.

Chr Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/14 - 4/15 Night Loads: 334 - 345

Area Worked: Section 4 (sta. 740-780)

Conditions: p. cloudy, variable 5-10 kts, seas 2-4', 70° Tide H ~2055 L ~0310

Incidents:

No incidents. No obvious differences in sampling at night - perhaps a few more benthic dwelling fin fish are sampled.

Note: This was the first night watch of the program. Our schedule has been adjusted to provide full coverage at night - 2 nights a week:

4/16 day shift
4/17 day shift
4/18 night shift 1800 - MN
4/19 night shift MN - 0600
4/20 day shift
4/21 day shift
4/22 night shift 1800 - MN
4/23 night shift MN - 0600

Example

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

Chris Slay

Onboard 4/14 1745 - 4/15 0815

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/16/91 Loads: 365 - 369

Area Worked: stations 34.0 - 28.0

Conditions: p. cloudy, S 5-10 kts, seas 2-4', 75° Tide H - 0940
L - 1555

Incidents:
No incidents

Observer replaced port lateral screening at the rear of hopper.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

Chris Slay

onboard 0800 - 1415

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/17/91 Loads: 385 - 389

Area Worked: stations 34.0 - 28.0

Conditions: overcast, SE 5+ kts, seas 2' chop, 74° Tide: H 1041 L 1658

Incidents:

No incidents.

Observer began re-screening stbd. lateral screen.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

Chris Slay

onboard
0815 - 1430

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/18 - 4/19 Night Loads: 413 - 423

Area Worked: stations 34.0 - 28.0

Conditions: clear, winds light, seas <2', 70°. Tide: H - MN
L - 0615

Incidents: No incidents - thorough inspection made every load during the night - no sign of turtle parts.

Observer completed re-screening on stbd. side

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

Chris Slay

onboard 4/18 1800
4/19 0800

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/20/91 Loads: 443 -448

Area Worked: stations 32.0 -27.0

Conditions: overcast, wind variable 5-10 kts, seas 1-3', 70° Tide: H 1343 L 1658

Incidents:

#1 Load 443 At 0850 I found a small piece of Loggerhead (caretta caretta) skin, apprx. 1" x 2", in the stbd. lateral screen. Screens were searched thoroughly and no other evidence of turtle take could be found. It would be difficult to attribute this to dredge mortality on the basis of such a small sample.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

Chris Slay

onboard 0800 - 1430

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4/14 - 4/20 1991

Loads: 334 - 448
see Daily Reports for specific load #'s

Areas Worked:

Section 4, stations 34.0 - 27.0

Incidents: Note: 4/20/91 Load 443 At 0850 I found a small piece of Loggerhead (Caretta caretta) skin, approx 1" x 2", in the stbd. lateral screen. Screens were searched thoroughly and no other evidence of turtle take could be found. It would be difficult to attribute this to dredge mortality on the basis of such a small sample. Sample was frozen for future reference.

The first night watches were conducted this week - went smoothly, nothing out of the ordinary to report. See Daily Report for details on the new schedule - Example: 4/14 - 4/15

Ch Slay

Program Contractor:

Christopher K. Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

If there are any questions, my local number is 912-437-6066

Observer(s) On Duty:

Chris Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4-21-91 Loads: 453-455

Area Worked: st. 320-420

Conditions: 15-20 kt. Westerly Wind, 2' seas

Incidents: No known incidents w/ target spp.

Repairs are made to starboard lateral screen.

Incident reported to observer 4/22 - see next page

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

Charles Maley

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Night Shift

Date: 4-22-91 / 4-23-91 Loads: 464-467
*(with incident from load 455)

Area Worked: Sta 320 - 380

Conditions: Clear skies, wind SE 10 Kts. 3' seas 72°F

Incidents: *On 4/21/91, after load 455, the dragtender (L. Green) recovered a turtle from the port draghead. The turtle, a loggerhead (C. caretta) was missing its head and left front flipper and about one quarter of its carapace. The dredge had been working stations 37-34. The specimen was ID'd by observer E. Cane and sent (via crewboat) to the dock. It was then taken to the GA. DNR for species confirmation and necropsy. Photographs were taken of the individual male (sub-adult) C. caretta. NOTE The scapula from this individual was used to confirm identification of scapula found on Dodge Island on 4-21-91. The size of the scapula suggest that the Dodge Island incident on 4-21-91 had possibly been C. caretta. (See Dodge Isl. report).

Loads 464-467, No incidents during the night shift.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

C. Slay

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4-24-91 Loads:

Area Worked:

Conditions:

Incidents:

Ship at dock for fueling.
Observer E. Cane boards at noon to clean screens.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/25/91 Loads: 494-498

Area Worked: Stations 320-270

Conditions: Overcast with rain in afternoon; Seas: 1-2'; Wind: 10-15 knts, NE (by afternoon); high tide in AM

Incidents:

No incidents to report.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:
Joe Ferris
(Joe Ferris)

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Night Duty
Date: 4/26/91 and 4/27/91 Loads: 518 - 522

Area Worked: Stations 360-345 (Loads 518-521); Stations 320-270 (Load 522)

Conditions: Overcast @ occasional showers; 69-74°F; Winds 5-15 kts, NE
Seas 2-3'

Incidents:

Two incidents occured while observer was off the vessel.

1) Reported by dragtender (B. Edwards) that a large (no-size given) turtle fell from the draghead upon bringing it out of the water at app. 4:00PM, 4/25/91. Dredge was working within stations 320-270. Turtle swam away and dived. It appeared to be uninjured. Note: Occured following load 499

2) Intestines (total of 212 inches) were found with connective tissues in the lateral screens upon coming aboard. The dragtender (B. Edwards) reported that the parts appeared between 6PM and 12 AM, 4/25/91, while digging sections 320-270, loads 499-506. Intestines were in pieces but its believed that it all came from a large turtle. ~~Stomachs~~ Intestines were nearly empty, but a few shell fragments and color of digested material within leads this observer to ~~[illegible]~~ conclude that the specimens were from a loggerhead turtle. Tissues were relatively fresh and all specimens were bagged and frozen for later reference.

Both incidents were noted by the Corps representative and will be included in weekly report.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

Joe Ferris

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4/21/91 - 4/27/91 Loads: 453 - 522

Areas Worked: Stations: 320-420; 360-345; 320-270

Incidents:

1) 4/21/91 - Load 455, turtle recovered from port draghead. Specimen was missing head and left front flipper and a quarter of the carapace. Dredge was working stations 370-340. Turtle was identified as a loggerhead (Caretta caretta) and photographed.

2) 4/25/91 - Load 499, between stations 320-270, a large turtle fell from the draghead upon bringing it out of the water at app. 4:00PM. The turtle swam away and dove. It appeared to be un-injured. Incident reported by draghtender (Bill Edwards).

3) 4/25/91 - Somewhere between loads 499 - 506, stations 320-270, portions of intestine and connective tissues were noted on lateral screens. Intestines and tissues were still on the screens when the observer came on duty next day. Total of 212 inches of intestine were recovered. It's believed that it all came from one large turtle. Intestinal contents led the observer to conclude that the tissues were from a loggerhead (C. caretta). Tissues were relatively fresh and all specimens were bagged and frozen for later reference.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173
Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer(s) On Duty:
Charles Maley
Chris Slay
Joe Ferris

Submitted by: Joe Ferris

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/28/91 Loads: Loads 539-542

Area Worked: Section 3, Stations 280-250, outer channel
" 4, " 360-345

Conditions: clear, wind light E, seas 1-2', 82°, Tide L 1355

Incidents:

Incident: After load 539, the observer recovered several pieces of fresh viscera determined to be from a sea turtle. A piece of lung and trachea and a small piece of intestine (~8" long) were found in the lateral screen - possibly from a previous load (539 was the first load covered by the observer on 4/28) though the specimen was fresh. Species undetermined. As always, samples were frozen for future reference.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

onboard 0835
off 1458

Joe Ferris

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4/29 - 4/30 1991 (Night) Loads: 561 - 564

Area Worked: Section 4, Sta 340 - 360 outer Channel

Conditions: clear, wind SE 10-15 kts, seas 2-4, tide H 2126 L 0357

Incidents: Clean-up dredging, long load times. No incidents.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

Chris Slay

onboard 1800 4/29
off 0845 4/30

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Sugar Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4/28 - 4/30 1991 Loads: 539 - 542, 561 - 564

Areas Worked: Section 3-5, stations 27.0 - 36.0, outer channel

Incidents:

Incident: 4/28 After load 539, the observer recovered several pieces of fresh viscera determined to be sea turtle. A piece of lung and trachea and a small piece of intestine (~8" long) were found in the lateral screens - possibly from a previous load (539 was the first load covered by an observer on 4/28). Specimen was, however, fresh. Species undetermined. As always, sample was frozen for future reference.

Note: Sugar Island departed Brunswick Channel 5/1/91 headed for the Gulf of Mexico. The Captains and Crew of the Sugar Island have been very conscientuous and helpful in our efforts to maintain good endangered species monitoring while observers were on and off the dredge. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173
Virginia Ave.
Athens, GA 30601
404-543-6859

Observer(s) On Duty: