

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 approx. 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 Herwood (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 veterinarian, 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.

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Observer On Duty:  
Onboard 0800-1500

Chris Slay

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

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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 kempii*) 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 approx. 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 veterinarian, Joanne Whaley, picked up the turtle, still alive, on 4/2. The COE, NMFS, USF&W and Ga. DNR were all contacted.

4/2 Load 141, Fresh piece of intestine was taken from port lateral screen, approx. 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 loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and had been recovered from the port skimmer.

Load 212, Six pieces of sea turtle intestine were recovered from the lateral screens and measured a total of approx. 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.

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..

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Observer(s) On Duty:

Ch Slay

not turtle  
CKS

fish  
1 turtle

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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

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Observer(s) On Duty:

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