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:

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onboard 0950 -

See Next Page

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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.

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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 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..

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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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