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.
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404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

Charles Maley

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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.

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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.

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Submitted by: Joe Ferris