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.

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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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