ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
Dredge Dodge Island/NATCO
Brunswick Channel

DAILY REPORT

Date: 5/17 (5/18) 1991 Day/Night Loads: 432 - 437

Area Worked: Section 3, stations 370 - 220

Conditions: clear, wind light, seas 2', 82°-75° tide: H 1151 L 1811
H 0041 L 0653 (5/18)

Incidents: Incident - Turtle take, Load 444, 0200 hrs (5/18). The observer found 7 pieces of intestine in the lateral overflow screens. Their combined length was apprx. 12'. Also recovered was a shredded piece of what appears to be kidney as well as fat and connective tissue. 2 of the pieces of small intestine were typical of that associated with all of our loggerhead takes where intestines were present. The other five pieces were large intestine, nearly twice the diameter with "spongier" interior walls. These samples were much like the "atypical" intestine from the incident on 4/29/91 where 2 eggs were present. It is very possible that incident was indeed the take of a fully adult female and that those samples seemed unusual because we rarely see the large intestines of fully grown loggerheads. Most of the documented "takes" aboard dredges in this area have been the sub-adult turtles, carapace length 24"-32". At any rate todays take is definitely turtle and will be given a prob. species i.d. of loggerhead (Caretta caretta) due to the size of the intestine - a few small shell fragments were in the intestine as well. Samples frozen.

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

Observer On Duty:

Chris Slay
0800 - 1800

Gina Gore
1800 - 0800 (5/18)

Slay examined samples upon boarding 0800 (5/18)

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DAILY REPORT

Date: 5/18/91 Loads: 448 - 455

Area Worked: Section 3, stations 320-223 (outer channel)

Conditions: clear wind S-SE 5-10 kts, seas <2', 84° tide: H 1255 L 1906

Incidents:

At 1635, near buoy 1A in the channel, I sighted a dead loggerhead floating out with the tide. Half the plastron and two flippers were visible and appeared intact. Condition of carapace couldn't be seen. Cause of death unknown.

Program Contractor:
Chris Slay
173 Virginia Ave.
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404-543-6859

Observer On Duty:

Chris Slay

0800 - 1815

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 5/12 - 5/18 1991 Loads: 362 - 455

Areas Worked: Cedar Hammock Range / Section 3 (outer channel)

Incidents:

Turtle take Load 397, 0042 hrs. 5/15. Several pieces of turtle intestine recovered from lateral screens. Loggerhead (Caretta caretta) was then found in the port draghead, carapace cracked nearly in two, some viscera sucked out. Carapace length and width (over-the-curve) apprx. 26" x 23". Photos taken. See Daily Report for details.

Turtle take Load 444, 0200 hrs, 5/18 (night). Seven pieces of turtle intestine found in lateral screens along with what appears to be a piece of kidney, and fat and connective tissue. Five of the pieces of intestine were large intestine and may shed some light on the incident involving 2 eggs on 4/29/91 (see Daily Report). Size of the sample and what little content was found in the intestine suggest prob. species i.d. - loggerhead (Caretta caretta), probably an adult. Samples were frozen. See Daily Report for details.

Note: Dead loggerhead seen floating in the channel, 5/18. Also, note observations on skimmer screening 5/12. No sample of turtle take have been recovered from skimmers on the Dodge.

Program Contractor:

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

Observer(s) On Duty:

Chris Slay

Barbara Zoodsma

Gina Gore