# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge OUACHITA

SAVANNAH Entrance Channel

Winter 1994

DAILY REPORT

Date: 3 / 24 / 94 Loads: 119 - 121

Area Worked: 320+00 → 385+00

Conditions: overcast & foggy; wind light & variable; seas 0-3'; Air Temp 64-70°F; $H_2O$ Temp 63°F

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes X No

Comments:

OUACHITA CREW SWITCHED OUT during early A.M. Hours. Captain Townsend & mates getting off informed incoming mates about turtle situation & the speed (<5 KTS.) to & from the dump.

Biological samples are few. They include: spider crabs, horseshoe crabs, conchs, coral blue crabs, starfish, jellyfish, bivalves, stingray & seaturtle*

* One juvenile loggerhead (Caretta caretta) taken during Load # 120. All parts found in middle screen. Parts include: front left flipper & top ½ of plastron attached; rear right flipper & bottom ½ of plastron attached; marginal fragmented pieces of carapace & marginal muscle matter (seems to be from shoulder girdle) When placed together plastron length could be accurately measured. Plastron length = 46 cm, front flipper = 29 cm. Observers photographed & froze turtle. Made report to CINRS Stay who will make all necessary reports

– at 17:18 all operations stopped until further notice due to turtle takes. Combined the Ouachita & RN Weeks have taken 4 turtles – (3 Caretta caretta + 1 Lepidochelys kempi ♂ (alive)) – Ouachita has taken 2 Caretta caretta. Dump was made and Ouachita anchored for the evening

Bridge Watch Summary

| Species | No. of animals | Comments |
|---|---|---|
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Observer(s) On Duty: Sydney Prince, Ximena Prudencio

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Gulf Coast Trailing/Dredge OUACHITA

Channel: SAVANNAH

December 1993 - March 1994

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 3 / 21 / 94 - 3 / 25 / 94 Loads: 114-121

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes X No

Comments:

3/21

* Load 114 - Turtle parts found on skimmer & mid screen - Caretta caretta - adult (loggerhead) right flipper (46 cm) & viscera found on skimmer - also 1 piece of plastron & 4 small carapace pieces found on skimmer - ½ plastron with marginal skin & skin from around neck found in mid screen - turtle was photographed & frozen - $H_2O$ Temp 62°F

3/24

* LOAD 120 - Turtle parts found in mid screen - Caretta caretta - juvenile - parts found were: front left flipper (29 cm) attached to upper ½ of plastron; rear right flipper attached to bottom ½ of plastron; fragmented pieces of carapace & marginal muscle matter from around ~~right~~ shoulder girdle - plastron could be pieced together & accurately measured = 46 cm. Observers photographed & froze turtle - $H_2O$ temp 63°F

3/22 & 3/23 - spent at fuel dock (until 15:15 on 3/23) observers cleaned screens - maintenance work was done by welder on skimmer & aft lander - both TEDs were removed as there is a waiver on TEDs

3/23 - observer John Knecht switched out with observer Sydney Prince

3/24 - @ 17:18 all dredging ceased due to intake of turtles (4 total for channel) Ouachita dumped & anchored for the evening until further notice

3/25 - @ ~11:30 word was received that job was accepted - Ouachita to leave Savannah

Bridge Watch Summary

| Species | No. of animals | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Tt (bottlenose dolphin) | 4 | in mid - AM hours - beyond red buoy #6 |
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Observers On Duty:

John Knecht

Sydney Prince

Aimee Prendergast