ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

NEWPORT

BRUNSWICK ENTRANCE CHANNEL

DAILY REPORT

Date: 03 / 03 / 99 Loads: 120 - 130

Area(s) Worked: STA -22+500 to -40 +000

Weather Conditions: wind S10-20 → W 10-15 seas calm - 4' p. cloudy

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 59° F Below Mid-Depth 57° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: good

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes ✓ No ____

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredging resumed at 0122 on 3/3/99 after inflow boxes were placed. Generator failed at 0145, with a stop for repairs. An old (decayed) adult Caretta caretta head + LFF was found in the port fore box. At the end of load #120, a juvenile Caretta caretta was found in the STBD fore box. This was a fresh kill.

Dredged material is fine silt + mud.

Biotic samples include: horse shoe crabs, whelk, whelk egg cases, skates, sea perks + soft corals.

Abiotic samples included wood debris, plastic + cloth

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
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Observer(s) On Duty: K. Dahlen + M. Hart

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 02/28/99 - 03/06/99 Loads: 108 - 174

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 57-59°F Below Mid-Depth 56-58°F

Area(s) Worked: SW: -31+000 TO -22+000 / -22+500 TO -40+000 / -31+000 TO -37+500

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes ✓ No____

Comments: Feb 28th: A slightly decomposed loggerhead seaturtle (Caretta caretta) was recovered from port inflow screen following load 113. Specimen consisted of the head, both frontflippers and 25% of the carapace and plastron. The condition of the specimen led observers to conclude that it was not a fresh kill and not conclusively attributed to dredging activity.

Mar 1st: At 0600 a juvenile loggerhead specimen was examined by Butt Johnson after being delivered to the dredge by the trawler Georgia Bulldog. Specimen had been taken by the trawler on Feb 28th and was a match with another specimen found by the trawler on Feb 25th.

Mar 3rd: Two loggerhead specimens were recovered following load 120. One of these was a freshly killed whole juvenile found in the starboard inflow screening and the other was a decayed specimen, head and left frontflipper, of an adult found in the port inflow screen.

Mar 5th: Loads 148 and 149 contained loggerhead specimens probably from the same animal. Both samples recovered first port inflow box. Following load 148 a piece of carapace was recovered and following load 149 the head and left frontflipper were recovered. Size, color and state of decomposition was consistent in the two samples. Remains are probably less than one week old but are 24 hrs. Therefore could not be definitely associated with the dredging. There was an unusual puncture to the head of this specimen and it was sent to Georgia DNR for further analysis.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
See page 2			

Observers On Duty: M Aust & K Dohlen

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 02/28/99 - 03/06/99 Loads: 108-174

Range of H_2O Temperature: Surface 57-59°F Below Mid-Depth 56-58° F

Area(s) Worked: Stations: -31+000 TO 22+000 / -22+500 TO -40+000 / -31+000 TO -37+500

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

Comments: Material dredged is slick black mud and silt.

Other than the sea turtle specimens listed on page 1, biological specimens found consist of horseshoe crabs, blue and spider crabs, stingrays, skates, jellyfish, starfish, sea porks, assorted vegetation, whelks, whelk egg cases, soft coral, parts of palm trees, bryozoan, hydrozoa, keyhole urchin, eels, sea cucumbers, sea anemones, sea pens, sea whips, tonguefish, flounder, and unidentified fish sp. Abiotic specimens included rope, plastic, wood and assorted trash.

The trawler "Georgia Bulldog" began work to remove turtles from dredge area at 0839 on Feb 28th.
Observers Mary Hart and Kirsten Dohlen boarded dredge at the dock on Mar 1st. Dredging activity resumed at 0122, Mar 3rd, after inflow screening boxes were in place.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments	
Tursiops truncatus	1	3-6	In channel (Bottlenose dolphin)	Feb 28
TT	1	1	near dredge site	Mar 4th
TT	1	4	buoy #5, near dredge site	Mar 4th
TT	1	3	dredge site	Mar 5th
TT	3	9	in channel	Mar 6th

Observers On Duty: M Hart & K Dohlen