ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Project: Savannah Harbor Entrance Channel

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACTIVITY

Date 3 / 20 / 00 Time(24hr) 21:30

Species of Turtle Taken Caretta caretta (Loggerhead Sea Turtle)

Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) Savannah Harbor Entrance Channel

Location of Take: Latitude 32° 01.9' N Longitude 80° 52.4' W

Vessel Name and Company Dredge Bayport / Manson Construction

Type of Dredging Activity Maintenance

Load # 315 Times: Start 2042 End 2146 Dump 2227

Sampling Method (overflow, inflow,etc.) inflow, overflow

Samples Recovered From Forward port inflow

Condition of Screening Excellent

Draghead Deflector? Yes ✓ No ____

Condition of Deflector Excellent

Weather Conditions clear sky, seas = 1-3', wind = light southwest Tide Flood

Water Temperature: Surface 60.5 °F Column 60 °F C or (F) (circle one)

Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled Most likely a fresh kill based on these reasons: cuticle which remains is well adhered, small amount of blood present, viscera present, odorless. But the fatty tissue is soft, not firm. If this is not a fresh kill, it is only 1-3 days old.

Measurements--

Give estimate of entire carapace dimensions, as well as fragments sampled (in metric when possible, indicate if not)

Head Width N/A

Plastron Length N/A Width N/A

Carapace S. L. Length N/A S.L. Width N/A

Carapace O.C Length N/A O.C. Width N/A

Turtle Tagged? Yes ____ No ✓ Tag # ____ Tag Date / /

Comments This sample consists of 2 vertebral scutes and sections of costal scutes. Species identification is based on rufous coloration with no overlap of scutes. Judging by the size of the vertebral scutes, my (MJP) best guess is that this individual was a juvenile. Although this appears to be a dredge related mortality, we cannot

Observer's Name Meghan Piercy, Greg Krivonak (continued)

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO INCIDENT REPORT

prove positively that this is the case. Given the large amount of shipping traffic in this channel, it is possible that the turtle was macerated by another ships keel and then sucked up by the dredge.

Observer's Name: Meghan Piercy, Greg Krivonak