

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge Newport

Project St. Simons Channel, Brunswick, GA

DAILY REPORT

Date: 12/20/99

Loads: 36-45

Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): -22+50 - -34+00

Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau,): Plc, -0lc, seas = 0-3', wind =

Range of H₂O Temperature (C): Surface 59°-60° Below Mid-Depth 59°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: EXCELLENT

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes No

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

One loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) was taken during load #45. It was a subadult, freshly killed. (See incident report).

Dredged material continues to be mud.

Biological specimens retained by screening included: *Caretta caretta*, Horseshoe crabs, lightening whelks, skate, blue crabs, sea star, moon snails, sea cucumber, flounder, jellies, whelk eggs, sea grasses, scallops and wood.

Plastics and metal debris were also retained by screening.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u><i>Tursiops truncatus</i></u>	<u>5</u>	<u>40-50</u>	<u>20-30 feeding on shoal, most others behind and near trawlers</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observers On Duty: M. Piercy, M. Hart

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Week 2

3 TURTLES

Dredge: Newport

Project: St. Simons Channel, Brunswick, GA

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates 12/20/99 - 12/26/99 Load Numbers 36-91

Range of Water Temp., Surface 56-60.5°F Below Mid-Depth 56-60°F

Areas Worked (lat/longs, stations) Stations -22+50 to -34+00

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? YES NO

Comments (turtle takes, whale sightings, effectiveness of screening, by-catch, material, other info):

Three sea turtle carcasses were retained by screening, including:

- ① 12/20/99 = subadult Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) = fresh kill (load # 45)
- ② 12/21/99 = adult Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) = fresh kill (load # 50)
- ③ 12/23/99 = Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*) = NOT fresh kill and cause of mortality cannot be definitively attributed to dredging activity. The Kemp's Ridley had a tag on its left foreflipper bearing the # SWW222. There was no fresh blood the soft tissues were pink and noticeably soft to the touch. (load # 63)

After the second turtle was taken, dredging activity ceased until the services of the trawler, "Georgia Bulldog" were employed and they began work in the afternoon of 12/22/99. Their only catch was a Loggerhead Sea Turtle caught on 12/23/99 which was released further out to sea.

Other biological specimens retained by screening included: Horseshoe crabs, Blue Crabs, Sea whips, Sea grass, sea cucumbers, Lightening whelks, whelk eggs, tubers, sea stars, live shells, scallops, Octopus, Bryozoans, dogfish and wood.

Bridge Watch Summary

Date	Various Species and Respective Number	Comments
*12/21	(12/20) <i>Caretta caretta</i> turtle was weighted & disposed of	@ 31°01'35"N & 81°12'56"W
*12/21	(12/21) <i>Caretta caretta</i> turtle was weighted & disposed of	@ 31°01'28"N & 81°12'43"W
12/20	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) 40-50 =	most feeding on shoal
*12/24	(12/23) Kemp's Ridley turtle was weighted & disposed of	@ 31°02'20"N & 81°17'04"W
12/24	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Bottlenose Dolphin) 3 total	1 @ dump & 2 riding wake of car carrier.
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Observers on duty Meghan Percy, Mary Hart