

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge NewportProject St. Simons Channel, Brunswick, GADAILY REPORTDate: 12/21/99Loads: 46-50Area(s) Worked (Stations & Lat/Long): 22°50' - 34°00'Weather Conditions (air temp, wind dir & spd, beau, ): P/C - c, seas = 1-3', Wind = E @ 7-15 K.Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature (C): Surface 59°-60.5°F Below Mid-Depth 59°-60°FCondition of all screening apparatus: EXCELLENTAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

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

Another Loggerhead Sea Turtle (Caretta caretta) was taken today in load # 50. This was the second turtle in less than 24 hours and the dredge suspended operations to await the arrival of the trawler "Georgia Bulldog," which began work on 9/22 @ x 15:30. See incident report for more information.

Dredged material continues to be mud.

Biological Specimens retained by screening included <sup>(1)</sup>Loggerhead Sea Turtle, Horseshoe crabs, Lightning whelks, olive shells, dog fish, sponges, sea stars, sea grass, Blue crabs, and wood.

Plastics and monofilament fishing line were also retained.

The two dead turtles were weighted down, marked w/ fluorescent orange paint, and disposed of at sea. The turtle caught on 9/20 was dropped @ 31°01'35"N and 81°12'56"W. The turtle caught Bridge Watch Summary on 9/21 was dropped @ 31°01'28"N and 81°12'43"W.

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observers On Duty: Meghan Piercy, Mary Hart

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Week 2

3 TURTLES

Dredge: NewportProject: St. Simons Channel, Brunswick, GAWEEKLY SUMMARYDates 12/20/99 - 12/26/99 Load Numbers 36 - 91Range of Water Temp., Surface 56 - 60.5°F Below Mid-Depth 56 - 60°FAreas 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 kempii*) = 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 notably 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, olive shells, scallops, Octopus, Bryozoans, dogfish and wood.Bridge Watch Summary

Date	Various Species and Respective Number	Comments
*12/21	(12/21) <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> (Bottle nose 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.
/		
/		

Observers on duty Meghan Percy, Mary Hart